

Hafa Adai!

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NMI gets over \$240M for disaster recovery

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development announced yesterday morning the allocation of over \$2.3 billion in support of long-term disaster recovery processes in “hard-hit” areas within 15 states and four of five U.S. territories since 2017 through 2019.

This includes the CNMI, which was ravaged by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. It will be getting over \$243 million.

HUD allocated a total of \$2,359,119,000 for California, Florida, Georgia, Missouri,

» **HUD allocates over \$2.3B to 15 states, 4 territories**

Alaska, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the CNMI from disasters
See NMI on Page 4

50 children killed by measles in Samoa; outbreak worsens

By NICK PERRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Samoa's government said Monday that another five children had died within the past day from a measles outbreak, bringing the death toll from the epidemic to more than 50 as authorities race to vaccinate the entire

population.

Samoa declared a national emergency last month and mandated that all 200,000 people living on the South Pacific island nation get vaccinated. The government has closed all schools and banned children from public gatherings.

In all, 53 people have died in the outbreak since late October.
See CHILDREN on Page 4



In this file image made from Nov. 25, 2019, file video, a New Zealand health official prepares a measles vaccination at a clinic in Apia, Samoa. AP

Finance to remit \$2.45M to MVA

» MVA board agrees to lift austerity measures

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance will remit \$250,000 in hotel occupancy tax collection next week to the Marianas

Visitors Authority and \$2.2 million more in January, for a total of \$2.45 million remitted to the CNMI's tourism body.

As this developed, the MVA's board of directors

approved during yesterday's meeting the request of MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo to lift the austerity measures for the staff, which means their 80-hour

See FINANCE on Page 4



Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce presides over a board meeting at the MVA's conference room in San Jose/Oleai yesterday afternoon. The board agreed to lift the austerity measures that MVA adopted last June. The Department of Finance has informed MVA that it will remit a total of \$2.45 million in hotel occupancy tax collection to MVA this month and in January.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Auditor: IPI cooperated but has yet to pay

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An auditor appointed by the

U.S. District Court for the CNMI to monitor Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC if it is complying with

labor and payroll rules told the court yesterday that IPI did cooperate fully but has yet to pay the auditor for its work.

The independent monitor, accounting firm Burger Comer Magliari, did not find any improper deductions in the workers' pay or find any major
See AUDITOR on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The 60th meeting of the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures kicks off yesterday.

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NATION

Federal officials are considering requiring that all travelers be photographed at airports.

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ASIA

Typhoon Kammuri's winds and rain leaves at least four people dead in the Philippines.

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Local

PH consul: Follow schedule for passport renewals



IVA MAURIN

Many Filipinos trooped to the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe to have their passports renewed, or to avail of other consular services, during the Philippine Consulate General in Guam's three-day outreach mission on Saipan.

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

As the outreach mission of the Philippine Consulate General in Guam comes to a close today, Guam consul Mark Francis C. Hamoy reiterates the preregistration system that the

consulate has in place, and that people must follow it.

With many Filipinos seeking to have the validity of their passports renewed—which is necessary for the renewal of their work visas (CW-1)—and with only a limited number of hours in a day through

which the consulate could facilitate applicants, Hamoy is appealing to people to get pre-registered to be accommodated at the next consular mission, which is in March 2020.

“We have a finite number of transactions we can do for each consular mission,” Hamoy

said. “Even if there are more applicants that need our services, we really cannot accommodate them unless they have pre-enlisted through the Office of the Honorary Consul Eli Arago.”

Honorary consul Eli Arago's office is at the second



floor of the JP Centre along Beach Road in Garapan. The Saipan consular office that releases the renewed passports is at the second floor of Building D at the Finasisu Terraces.

The reminder to stick to the schedule comes after the outreach mission discovered that some people are not following their assigned schedules. Hamoy said that sticking to the schedule also avoids the incident of people who are coming in as walk-ins who do not get entertained because of the set schedules for the pre-enlisted applicants.

The outreach mission has been processing 140 passport applications daily, on top of other consular services including civil registrations, affidavits, and special power of attorney, since Dec. 3, Tuesday, at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

Hamoy also calls on Filipinos classified as CW-1s, or CNMI-Only Transitional Workers, to be mindful of the validity of their passports.

“If they are CW-1, or they are applying for a period of stay here, not as a tourist, but as a worker or a resident, they have to make sure that their passport has a validity greater than the period that they are applying for,” Hamoy stressed.

“They have to renew their passport 14 months in advance, typically, because the CW-1 has a validity period of one year,” the consul added. “That means they always need to have their passport valid for more than one year.”

For more information on the consular services, check out <http://www.philippines-guam.org/>, or visit the Philippine Honorary Consulate on Saipan at the JP Centre.

Anaks unit burglarized

A burglar or burglars managed to foil the posted security guards at the Anaks condominium complex in Puerto Rico by burglarizing one of the units last Monday.

According to a Department of Public Safety statement yesterday, among the items that were stolen were a silver-colored Tag Heuer men's watch, two silver designer men's watches, two gold Cartier wedding rings, and an undisclosed amount of U.S. dollars.

Police said that DPS received the 911 call about the burglary and theft incident at about 10:32pm Monday.

Police that responded to the scene met with the victim, who said that he immediately noticed that some items inside the unit were out of place when he returned home.

As he made his way through his home to see if any items were missing, he did not see any scattered items but could not locate some of his valu-

ables in their usual places. That prompted him to call 911.

Initial police findings indicate that no suspicious vehicles or guests visited the complex during the on-duty guard shifts. However, a source told *Saipan Tribune* the guards may have been doing their usual rounds throughout Anaks at the time of the burglary and were unable to notice the suspect or suspects.

Last Nov. 16, a private home in Gualo Rai was burglarized and video surveillance caught two individuals carrying the stolen items.

In addition, a flurry of robberies happened previously, with Trench Tech owner Cuki Alvarez reporting that his home and the Trench Tech Gym were robbed last month and a separate case where a Kagman home was robbed and the home owner was threatened by the suspect with a knife. Both cases are still under investigation. (Marc A. Venus)

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Man allegedly beats up wife for too much social media

Senate committee chair thinks panel to act soon on hemp regulations bill

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate Committee on Gaming and Cannabis that is chaired by Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) might soon be acting on a bill that would regulate hemp in the CNMI.

Sablan affirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his committee might soon be acting on Rep. Marco T. Peter's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-55 at their next meeting. The bill would authorize the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to regulate hemp in the CNMI.

All the committee is waiting for, he said, are comments from the DLNR, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Cannabis Commission before deciding to act on the bill.

However, judging on the bill itself, Sablan said his committee supports the bill in general.

"With the recent moves [at] the national level, the committee sees the need to have hemp regulated under the DLNR," he said. "There are certain funding benefits the CNMI can avail of under the local agriculture agency."

H.B. 21-55 mandates DLNR to create the rules to regulate the production of hemp in the CNMI, including establishing fees and requirements for licenses for

production.

The bill passed the House with a vote of 17-0 in an Oct. 31, 2019, session on Capitol Hill.

The legislation also outlines penalties for violations pertaining to the negligence of a hemp producer, which include failing to provide a legal description of land on which the producer produces hemp; failing to obtain a license or other required authorization from the Division of Agriculture;



Sablan

or producing Cannabis sativa L. with a tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis.

Although the legislation does not criminalize negligent hemp producers, the bill states that a hemp producer who negligently violates regulations thrice within five years shall be ineligible to produce hemp for five years.

Hemp producers who willfully violate the regulations shall be punishable by up to one year of imprisonment or a fine of up to \$2,500, or both.

A corrective action plan will be imposed on negligent hemp producers, which requires that the producer corrects the negligent violation on a reasonable date, and to submit periodic reports to the Division of Agriculture on the compliance of the hemp producer with the regulations in the last two years.

A woman accused her husband of strangling her and of slapping and punching her head and face more than 40 times at their home in Kagman last Friday night, saying he was angered by her constant use of social media.

The victim told police that her husband, William James Reyes Fitial Jr., kept beating her until she felt numbness in her body, that she thought she was going to die and that it was the most painful incident she has ever experienced in her life.

Police arrested the 37-year-old Fitial Tuesday morning on

charges of strangulation, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At an initial appearance hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail on Fitial.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 11 at 9am.

According to police detective Rosa T. Rios, the victim stated that she had seen Fitial getting angry over her being on social media, so she walked away from him to avoid any confrontation at their house last Friday night.

The victim said that Fitial followed her into the house, then slapped and punched her on the head and face more than 10 times.

She said she fell to the floor and felt dizzy, but her husband sat her up and continued slapping and punching her.

When she fell to the floor again, Fitial allegedly strangled her so she struggled with him as she could not breathe. She said her husband, however, seemed to have lost his mind and continued slapping and punching her head over 40 times.

Police said that Fitial later admitted in an interview that he was mad at his wife's constant social media use and that he indeed beat her up.

Although the alleged incident happened last Friday, police only responded to the victim's house this past Tuesday morning after receiving a call about the disturbance.

That was when the alleged victim told police about the beating that happened Friday night, that it was witnessed by their two minor children.

Police reported that the victim's eyeballs were bloody and that the area around her eyes had black and purple bruising. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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NMI

From Page 1

between 2017 and 2019 through the agency's Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery program, or CDBG-DR.

"[The program]...will address seriously damaged housing, businesses and infrastructure from disasters that occurred since 2017," the HUD announcement said.

The CNMI was allocated \$243 million in disaster recovery

money—one of the larger allocations compared to other states and territories.

"Getting federal recovery funding, above and beyond what the Marianas has gotten in the past, was our No. 1 priority in the days after Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a statement from his office.

"We worked very hard right through June, when Public Law 116-20 was finally signed into law, to make sure the Marianas got the help

we need," he added.

P.L. 116-20 is also known as the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019. The legislation provides a total of \$17.2 billion in fiscal year 2019 supplemental appropriations to several federal departments and agencies for expenses related to the consequences of wildfires, hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. In total, P.L. 116-20 set aside \$130 million for the Marianas, according to Sablan's statement.



From left to right, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. director Jesse Palacios, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, NMHC project manager John Gonzales, and Torres's chief of staff, Angel A. Demapan. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FINANCE

From Page 1

work week will be restored.

As of today, MVA is still owed \$5.2 million in hotel occupancy tax collection for fiscal year 2019, Iakopo disclosed at the board meeting.

Iakopo said she met last Tuesday with Finance Secretary David Atalig, who informed her that he will be remitting \$250,000 to MVA this week.

Iakopo said that Atalig stated that, upon the completion of the bond that the CNMI government is planning to float before the end of the year, \$1 million more will be remitted to MVA by the week of Dec. 28.

She said Atalig mentioned that come January 2020, \$300,000 will be remitted each week to MVA for a total of \$1.2 million to pay the arrears owed MVA.

Under the law, 80% of the hotel occupancy tax collection goes to MVA, while 20% goes to the Settlement Fund.

Meanwhile, the MVA board approved Iakopo's request to lift the austerity measures that MVA adopted last June that cut employee work hours from the regular 80-hour work week to 72.

Iakopo told the board that they did receive a memorandum from the Governor's Office about the lifting of the austerity measures and restoring the 80-hour pay period.

Since the austerity measures were imposed, MVA has saved \$60,000 and that majority of such saving was just for payroll, Iakopo said. She said \$1,600 in operational expenses was part of the savings.

"We're just asking if we can lift the austerity," the managing director said, adding that they have set

aside funding to cover the remaining month of December and two payrolls in January at the 80-hour work week.

"So we're okay," Iakopo said.

Upon hearing Iakopo's presentation, MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said she needs board action on the motion to lift the austerity measures.

All board directors present agreed to lifting to the measures.

The austerity measures started last June 23 for MVA, affecting 36 staff, including Iakopo. By the Dec. 19 payday, MVA staff will start receiving the full or the 80-hour work week.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently issued Directive 2020-001, which restores the 80-hour work schedule starting Nov. 24. Torres implemented the austerity measures due to cash flow woes in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu that devastated Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

New Zealand.

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Monday that her country was doing everything it could to help curb the epidemic, including sending more than 50 medical professionals and thousands of vaccines to Samoa. Other countries including Britain have also sent teams and supplies.

Ardern said the natural curve of infection rates meant that "sometimes things can be worse before they are better."

Figures from the World Health Organization and UNICEF indicate that fewer than 30% of Samoan infants were immunized last year. That low rate was exacerbated by a medical

mishap that killed two babies who were administered a vaccine that had been incorrectly mixed, causing wider delays and distrust in the vaccination program.

The government said about 33,000 people were vaccinated before last month and since then, another 58,000 people have been vaccinated.

The World Health Organization has set a target of wiping out measles from most of the world by next year. It says the disease is entirely preventable thanks to a safe vaccine that has been in use since the 1960s, and that measles deaths worldwide decreased by 84% between 2000 and 2016 to about 90,000 annually thanks to better immunization.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres welcomed the news in a separate statement and expressed his gratitude to HUD and HUD Secretary Ben Carson.

"I also want to commend our hardworking staff at the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and our departments and agencies for working collaboratively on our action plan, which will help fund work on our damaged homes on Saipan and Tinian, as well as infrastructure throughout our businesses, schools, and community areas around the Commonwealth," Torres said.

Torres noted that the CDBG-DR money was a year's worth of work because of the stringent require-

ments needed for the program, such as "thoughtful" recovery plans, among others.

NMHC compiled the requirements for the CDBG-DR grant with help from the Governor's Office and the business and community input from residents, he added.

"We thank our residents for their continued patience with our recovery process. The CDBG-DR program is one of the many reasons why we are developing our local capacity to meet the demands and requirements for managing our community recovery projects. This funding will help rebuild our Marianas stronger for the future," he said.

AUDITOR

From Page 1

potential issues in its second report

That report covers 90 days from Aug. 16, 2019, to Nov. 15, 2019. The first report, which was filed in court last Aug. 16, covers three months that ended Aug. 15, 2019.

BCM managing partner David J. Burger disclosed that, from a logistical standpoint, IPI cooperated fully and extensively with them but it has yet to pay them \$18,730 for their work on the first report.

Burger said they submitted their first report last Aug. 16 together with an invoice for their work.

Burger also noted that a consent judgment requires IPI to remit a second payment of \$45,000 to the court on or before Nov. 1, 2019. He said they did remind IPI about the second payment but, as recently as Nov. 14, they do not believe the second payment had been made.

"We do not know if the payment was made between Nov. 14, 2019, and the date of this report," Burger said.

Burger said they also identified three potential issues—dual rate system, break time, and after-hours duties—in their first report covering the period from mid-May 2019 to Aug. 15, 2019.

In his update on the three issues, Burger said they determined that overtime pay, if any, for employees under a dual rate system, is properly being recorded at the weighted average hourly rate for regular work performed, in accordance with statute and regulations.

"We made this determination through our testing of payroll registers," he said.

On the break time issue, Burger said IPI issued a directive that requires employees to time out for breaks. He said IPI has also communicated to all department supervisors that break time is compensable, except for meal times, during which the employee does not perform any work.

Burger said they made this determination through interviews with employees and with IPI's human resources personnel.

As for the after-hours duties issue, Burger said they did not provide IPI HR staff with any names, gender, titles or department information, to maintain the anonymity of the employee.

He said the HR staff pointed out that it would be difficult for them to

remedy the situation without knowing which supervisor was asking a subordinate to perform after-hours duties without pay.

He said the HR staff indicated that they informed all department supervisors that having subordinates assist them during nonworking hours was not acceptable.

With respect to interviews from Aug. 16 to Nov. 15, 2019, Burger said issues of job titles and formal timekeeping were raised by the employees.

Burger said some of the employees interviewed stated that their job titles were changed without their knowledge.

Burger said they, however, did not find any employee who had been assigned to a different job title and had their hourly rate reduced.

He said they asked the HR staff about the changing job titles issue, and that their response was that they utilize a "Letter of Movement" whenever an employee's job title is changed, and the employee is required to sign the letter indicating agreement with the change in title.

As to the issue of formal timekeeping records, Burger said employees of one department stated during their interviews that there was no time clock in their area that they could use to time in and time out. Instead, the employees said they have to fill out time sheets manually.

Burger said they asked HR about the issue, and that their response was that's there may be employees in remote locations where there is no time clock.

Burger said the HR staff also stated that, with the replacement of the Kronos system, they actually have doubled the number of time clocks/biometric devices used to record employee work time.

He said HR staff promised to look at this issue further with the department involved.

IPI was placed on independent monitoring in connection with U.S. Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta's lawsuit in federal court against IPI for alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act over the construction of its casino/resort project in Garapan.

To resolve the lawsuit, IPI and Acosta agreed to an entry of a consent judgment. IPI agreed to pay a total amount of \$3.36 million, which is composed of \$1.58 million in back wages, another \$1.58 million in liquidated damages, and \$200,000 in civil monetary penalties.

CHILDREN

From Page 1

tober, including one adult and two older teenagers. Most of those who have died have been babies and young infants, including 23 children aged less than 1 and 25 children aged between 1 and 4.

The government said more than 1,100 people have been admitted to hospitals since the outbreak began and about 180 people remain hospitalized. Among those hospitalized are 19 children who are in critical condition.

Samoa authorities believe the virus was first spread by a traveler from

APIL delegates gather on Saipan for 60th meeting

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 60th meeting of the Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures kicked off its three-day convention in the House of Representatives chamber on Capitol Hill yesterday morning.

Reps. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) and Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan) represented the CNMI during the first day of the meeting that was also attended by members of the legislatures of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap), Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Hawaii, Kiribati, and Nauru.

"We are excited and thrilled

to have the members of the APIL and many of their delegates joining in," Blanco told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief interview. Blanco also serves as the association's secretary for 2018-2019 term.

Blanco noted that the CNMI was supposed to host the meeting in early 2019 but was unable to do so because the government was then prioritizing Super Typhoon Yutu recovery. The last time the CNMI hosted the APIL was in 2011 and the APIL meetings for 2019 convened in Yap.

Some of the things that Blanco is looking forward to discussing at the meeting today include airline service to Guam and the use of the resources of the Pacific Islands Develop-



ERWIN ENCINARES

ment Bank, a regional financial institution that aims to help small island nations and a subsidiary and partner to the APIL.

The main points for discussion would be confirmed when the body continues their meeting on Thursday, Blanco said.

"...We are excited for the next three days of engagement for the sharing of concerns, opinions, ideas, and, most importantly solutions to preserve the identities of our island nations as we prepare to pass on these lands to our children,

who are the rightful owners," Sablan said in his opening and welcoming remarks at the start of the meetings.

Sablan said members of the APIL share several common issues, such as the protection of their traditional practices, environmental preservation, health care service improvements, healthy and controlled economic development, emerging economic industries, federal mandates, food security, climate change, waste management, renewable energy, co-existence with the U.S. military, and much more.

The APIL delegates include Yap Sens. Jerry Fagolimul and Theodore Rutun, who arrived with member-secretariat Dee Libian; Chuuk Sen. Nelson Ste-

phen, Sen. Gardenia Aisek Macayon, Reps. Andrew May, and Shining Sos; Kosrae Speaker Tulensa Palik, Sens. Andy Andrew, Rinehart William, Harry Jackson, Alik Isaac, and floor leader Jarinson Charley; Pohnpei Sens. Edgar Lickaneth, Dahker Daniel, Mayleen Shoniber, member-secretariat, Selpelihter Hadley, and legal counsel Thomas Beckman; Guam Sens. Kelly Marsh, Regine Biscoe-Lee, Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, and Walden Weilbacher; Kiribati parliament members Kaure Babo and Emil Christopher Schutz; Marshall Islands Speaker Kenneth Kedi, Sen. Sherwood Tibon, and chief clerk Morean Watak; Palau Sens. Kerai Mariur and Aric Nakamura; and Hawaii state Sen. J. Kalani English.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Marianas Lions Club presented last Dec. 3, to the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. the \$2,000 that was raised during 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser last Nov. 17, 2019.

SMLC donates \$2K to CHCC anti-diabetes program

Members of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club presented to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Diabetes Prevention & Control Program last Dec. 3, 2019, the \$2,000 that was raised during its 2nd Annual 5K Walkathon Fundraiser that was held last Nov. 17, 2019.

By choosing the Diabetes Prevention & Control Program as this year's beneficiary means that the Saipan Marianas Lions Club is able to support community access to diabetes screening supplies and lab fees for A1C testing, among other services that are not covered by federal grants.

This donation was made possible through the support of donors and the hundreds of community members who participated in the walkathon:

- Graphics, Inc.
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- Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan

- Marianas Eye Institute
- IT&E
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- MP Holdings
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- Rep. Ivan Blanco (PR)

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Conference focused on science being done in the Marianas

The 3rd Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop is over. Held for the first time on Saipan last Nov. 19-20, the conference attracted over 100 attendees with 28 presentations on the first day and nine scientific posters on the second day.

Free and open to the public, the MTCC is the only conference held in the region that brings researchers together around conservation issues facing the islands that make up the Mariana archipelago. Talks included research on recovery of *fanihi* (Mariana fruit bat), *sali* (Micronesian starling) and *aga* (Mariana crow), native skinks, and snails.

The talks can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ycP1zJLco5-gR8rkL8m4Q/videos>.

Several University of Guam students and graduates presented at the conference, including Maria Lynn Cruz, Jerilyn Calaor, and Ann Marie Gawel.

Calaor and Gawel are currently working toward their Ph.D. under Haldre Rogers at Iowa State University.

Moneka de Oro, research technician at the Ecology of Bird Loss Project in Guam, attended the conference and believes it is important to have a venue to showcase terrestrial research in the region. "It is vital for people to know about the research being conducted on native flora and fauna in order to understand where we are now and our relationship to the land," said de Oro.

The Western Pacific Tropical Research Center was a major sponsor of the conference. "I was very impressed with the caliber of the research and presentations at the conference," said WPTRC associate



Jerilyn Calaor presents her research via online connection from Iowa on the role of spiders in arthropod communities in the absence of birds.

WPTRC

director Adrian Ares.

Researcher Michael Lanzzone from Cape May, New Jersey, presented on an upcoming project tracking *sali* (Micronesian starling) in Guam at the Anderson Air Force Base. "I believe this conference is critically important for understanding the conservation of island ecosystems. It brings people together to learn from each other and allows conservation players a chance to get on the same page," said Lanzzone.

Hawaii-based USGS Pacific

ON THE NET

■ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ycP1zJLco5-gR8rkL8m4Q/videos>

ic Island Ecosystem Research Center scientist Eben Paxton, said, "This conference allows attendees to hear what researchers are doing in the field of conservation research and know that our science is applicable to the region. It is also important to hear the concerns and needs of other scientists and the public."



A rufous fantail (chichirika in CHamorro) darts through the limestone forest understory during a birding field trip at the 3rd Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop.

MICHAEL LANZZONE

Emma Hollowell, a recipient of the John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship that allows participants to gain hands-on experience at host government offices in Washington, D.C. that is transferring science to policy and management, attended the conference. She came because she personally cares about the issues around invasive species management and conservation and wanted to see firsthand what is happening in the Marianas. Working in D.C. with the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment), she hears a great deal about environmental issues in the region.

On the second day of the conference, scientists, along with representatives of local and federal agencies, focused on brown tree snake research in the region. A panel discussion on conservation efforts on the islands brought together the issues of reintroducing birds in Guam and brown tree snake eradication efforts. The well-attended poster session held at the Carolinian Utt

drew conference participants and local people interested in conservation. The CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources hosted a barbecue as the culminating event of the conference.

The conference organiz-

ers included field trips, making the two-day conference overwhelmingly enjoyable. Thrilling pre-conference *proa* [indigenous canoe] rides by Saipan-based nonprofit 500 Sails, Inc. and a hike to visit a Mariana swiftlet cave gave conference-goers an introduction to Saipan. Multiple morning field trips included an early morning birding trip, tree-planting for Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts, and a native limestone forest hike.

"The zories-on-the-ground conference organizers, Jill Liske-Clark and Ann Marie Gawel, did a fantastic job in making the 2019 MTCC was a tremendous success," said Rogers.

MTCC's 2020 conference will be held in mid-November in Guam. For more information contact Rogers at haldre@iastate.edu. (PR)

PSS welcomes its 8th Ed Tech cohort

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's Educational Technology Training Program welcomed its 8th Cohort—composed of 85 teachers—last weekend at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria with an orientation on how the course will play out this school year.

These 85 educators will complete 250 hours of online learning and 25 face-to-face sessions in Ed Tech, a branch of Instructional Technology and Distance Education Program under PSS' Office of Student & Support Services.

These teachers will be taught how to integrate technology in their classrooms to both support their teaching practice as well as make their students become more engaged—coupling the art and science of teaching with 21st-Century tools and innovations. The term will end with a service-learning project where the participants will showcase their new technology skills by leading a tech-based professional development for their colleagues.

During the orientation, technology tools and digital media were incorporated to discuss how technology has transformed the world. Aside from meeting the Ed Tech Instructors and Program Leaders requirements, the attendees heard student testimonials and saw research highlights that support the role of technology in promoting student success.

One of the Ed Tech Cohort 8 participants who attended the orientation, Elfriede Suda, said, "I like the tech tools that were used today in the orientation to keep us engaged. I also

like the motivational words. I felt encouraged that I will be tech-savvy at the end of the program."

Another participant, Jordan Monteran, said, "I felt right at home and am excited about the Ed Tech content I will be learning. I'm ready to up my tech game."

Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology, said that Ed Tech is offered annually to all public and private schools throughout the CNMI.

"It's a competitive opportunity for educators to shore up their teaching practice with technology skills. There was a large pool of applicants this year and vetting was highly competitive. Eighty-five exceptional participants were admitted to Cohort 8, and I'm very excited about learning ahead for them," he said.

Distance Education Program manager Lorraine Catienza said the participants will complete several courses that include Google Applications for Educators, Digital Citizenship, Classroom Instruction that Works with Technology, Student Product with Technology, and Advanced Computer Applications.

The program is updated each year, using focus groups strategies to improve scope and sequencing as well as update digital tools and resources.

Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan, associate commissioner of Student and Support Services, said, "We want our participants to be empowered to leverage the power of technology to enhance their practice. ...Our goal is to ensure that our students are receiving the education they need to take full advantage of tomorrow."

Karidat wants to restock food pantry via rummage sale

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To provide even more services to the community, Karidat Social Services is having a Christmas Rummage Sale on Dec. 21, Saturday, from 8am to 2pm, at its main office at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa.

All proceeds will support the Karidat food pantry. "We

have decided to open up a thrift shop and all of the proceeds from the thrift shop will go to restocking the food pantry," Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro.

The Christmas rummage sale is Karidat's first, where donated goods and clothing would be put on sale, for \$1 per bag, to generate funds to help sustain the organization's food services.

"\$1 a bag because we are not trying to make a huge profit. We are just trying to keep our food pantry," Ogumoro added.

"We hope to garner a lot of support from the community, for the community, especially for those who...need...food."

Karidat also has a Christmas Giving Tree where, for every food or monetary donation, an ornament will be affixed to the tree under the

donor's name. Karidat also supports the Toys for Tots toy drive, and, as a shelter, is still helping women and children in the community.

For more information about the rummage sale, or to make a cash or food donation to the Karidat food pantry, stop by the Karidat main office at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa or call 234-6981.

Learn how to make your workplace OSHA-compliant

Businesses, government agencies and individuals needing Occupational Safety and Health Administration certification training on guidelines for the workplace can enroll in training courses offered by the Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute in partnership with Omega Safety Compli-

ance, CNMI.

The 30-hour OSHA certification courses will cover managing safety and health, confined space entry, fire protection and prevention, and more. Participants can choose one or both of the courses offered on the following dates:

■ OSHA Construction Industry Safety and Health Re-

quirements

□ Jan. 6-10, 2020: Monday – Friday, 2pm – 8pm

■ OSHA General Industry Safety and Health Requirements

□ Jan. 20-24, 2020: Monday – Friday, 2pm – 8pm

The cost of the training is \$375 per person. This fee is inclusive of all training materials

and the OSHA Outreach awareness completion card. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate from the OSHA Outreach Training Institute at the University of California, San Diego and NMC.

Interested applicants can contact CDI at 237-6810/05/02, or email les.ogumoro@marianas.edu. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Cancer survivors, caregivers support group meeting today**

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support group meeting today, Dec. 5, 2019, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. The guest speaker is Lubna Khalid, self-empowerment presenter. (www.lubnareal.com). Her presentation will be on the REAL healing—the holistic way. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Military trainings today

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the Dandan training site in Inarajan today, Dec. 5, from 11am to 11:55pm.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Radio Barrigada today, Dec. 5, from 6pm to 11:55pm. These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. Routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during these trainings.

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises today, Dec. 5, from 3pm to 6pm within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the following coordinates: 13°26'N/145°08'E and 13°42'N/144°36'E. All vessels are advised to remain clear of a 3-nautical mile ra-

dius of these coordinates.

The U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Royal New Zealand Air Force will conduct training for Operation Christmas Drop today and tomorrow, Dec. 5-6, off Orote Point at coordinates 13°25'N/148°38'E. (PR)

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Please call the any of the three schools at 237.3150 (KAGE), 237.3165 (COVMS), or 237.3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Christmas in the Marianas on Dec. 7

On Dec. 7, high school and middle school students will present Christmas caroling at the Christmas in the Marianas, from 6pm to 10pm at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. For more information, visit the Marianas Visitors Authority Facebook page (MyMarianas) or contact Community Projects coordinator Ray Villagomez at rvillagomez@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3210. (MVA)

Free Guam workshops

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offer-

ing free workshops to the public this December that will teach participants how to market and sell your products/services to the federal government.

Workshops run from 9am to 10am at the University of Guam in the Jesus and Eugenia Leon Guerrero Business and Public Admin Building, Margarita Perez & Jaime Tuquero IT&E Lecture Hall, Room 131(unless otherwise specified):

■ Dec. 5: Marketing to the Federal Government—Are you ready to sell to the government? The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on “the list.”

■ Dec. 12: Responding to Requests for Proposals—The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ Dec. 19: Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment—Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system, formerly known as WAWF.

For Project Management Professionals, Guam PTAC workshops may count toward your annual Professional Development Unit goals.

Register at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>, or call/email Therese at 735-2552/admin@guamptac.com.

Walk-ins are welcome. (PR)

WANTED**NEWS REPORTER**

Saipan Tribune is looking for **FULL-TIME** news reporters.

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- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
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If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email your résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the Saipan Tribune office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. **ON-ISLAND HIRES PREFERRED.**

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE**MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 9:30AM** at the DCRM 3rd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- II. **PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
 - A. CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2019-X-020

Project: XINGSHA HOTEL PROJECT The Tinian Hairui Real Estate Co., LLC is proposing to construct the Xingsha Hotel along 8th Avenue and Kammer Beach, Lot No. 040 T 06, in San Jose, Tinian. The proposed project consists of two 3-story building complex with a total of 92 guest rooms, 112 parking spaces, storage area, control room, lobby and reception area, snack bar, and kitchen and dining areas with seating of about 40 persons. The proposal includes landscaping of plants and trees and an offsite sewer treatment facility. The proposed offsite sewer treatment facility will be situated on Lot No. 045 T 10, in San Jose, Tinian.

- 1) Agencies' Discussion of the Sewer System and Treatment Plant
- 2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
- 3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

- III. **OTHER MATTERS**
- IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

SHANE A. BARRO
P.O. Box 7508 SURB
SAIPAN M.P. 96950

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter) FCD CN
of the Petition) CIVIL ACTION
for the Change) NO. 19-0503
of name of:)

SHANE A. BARRO) **NOTICE OF**
Petitioner) **HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 12/23, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP before Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**



**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-005**

**SUBMISSION DATE: December 23, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**“Construction of Sidewalk from Mobil
Gas Station to Tanapag Bridge”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 10, 2019, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 16, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

MVA joins China wedding and honeymoon forum



The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the opening ceremony for the 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and 23rd Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival on Nov. 23-24, 2019, in Sanya, China.

To attract more young couples to the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and 23rd Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival held on Nov. 23-24, 2019, in Sanya, China.

The exhibition is a B2B and B2C platform for Chinese

outbound wedding companies and overseas island tourism boards, travel agencies, hotels, resorts and scenic spots to exchange information and build partnerships. About 1,530 consumers attended the event.

"The 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival pro-

vided an excellent opportunity for the MVA to meet Chinese couples and entice them to have their wedding or honeymoon in the Marianas," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, who led the Marianas delegation. "With our beautiful scenery, warm tropical weather, and proximity to China, we are a perfect

destination wedding location."

The event was held at the Mangrove Tree Convention Center at Sanya Bay. In addition to having an information booth, the MVA made a presentation on the main stage of the forum to further promote the wedding resources and attractions in the Marianas. The MVA was joined by the professional wedding company Hanamitsu at the event.



The Marianas Visitors Authority used island imagery to help promote the Marianas at the 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and 23rd Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival on Nov. 23-24, 2019, in Sanya, China.

The Marianas also received two awards at the event: The destination was named 2019 Global Newlyweds Favorite Wedding Destination, beating competing destinations including Bali, Malaysia, Japan,

Sri Lanka, Tahiti, and Jeju Island. Torres also accepted the award for Figure of Global Wedding Destination for continued effort to promote the Marianas as a perfect wedding destination. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, third from right, leads the Marianas delegation at the 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and 23rd Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival on Nov. 23-24, 2019, in Sanya, China. From left are MVA China marketing manager Ben Liu, Hanamitsu general manager Amy Zhang, MVA marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, Torres, MVA China in-country manager Florence Shi, and Hanamitsu sales manager Junjie Zeng.



Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, center, accepts the award for 2019 Global Newlyweds Favorite Wedding Destination at the 2019 Global Wedding & Honeymoon Island Forum and 23rd Tian Ya Hai Jiao International Wedding Festival on Nov. 23-24, 2019, in Sanya, China.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 5, 1999

After PCB, here comes nuclear waste

The Division of Environmental Quality has condemned the practice of using the CNMI waters for the transshipment of nuclear wastes without informing the island government. A comprehensive report entitled, Shipment of Nuclear Waste By Sea, and Its Impact on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, revealed that these ships carrying large amounts of weapons grade plutonium sailed from Europe to Japan on July 2, 1999 and came within a few hundred miles of the CNMI—with the U.S. blessing. The report was prepared by the Office of Rep. Melvin O. Faisao, chair of the Federal and Foreign Relations Committee. DEQ Director Ike Cabrera urged the CNMI Legislature to adopt immediate and appropriate measures to protect the people and natural resources of the Commonwealth.

Impostor busted

He said some people had always mistaken him for either a police officer or an FBI agent. He didn't want these people to find out that he wasn't what they thought he was, so he tried to live up to their misconception. Nick Castro must have thought his mischief was innocent and funny, but his victims

and the prosecutors were not laughing. Yesterday, Castro pled guilty to the charge of impersonating a federal law officer before Federal Judge Alex Munson. The sentencing was scheduled for Feb. 8, 2000.

December 5, 2005

Minor glitches in otherwise smooth polls

The Commonwealth Election Commission blamed the lack of funding for the glitches encountered during yesterday's otherwise smoothly conducted election. Some voters complained about the long lines, which resulted from limited polling places. In Garapan Elementary School, for instance, some voters who came to the polling place in the morning had to wait in line for at least 30 minutes before they were allowed inside. "If there's more money, I would add polling places," said CEC executive director Gregorio Sablan.

Court dismisses pool accident lawsuit

The Superior Court dismissed Thursday a lawsuit against a Japanese man and his Japan-based liability insurer in connection with the death of another man over injuries sustained from a hotel swimming pool accident. Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama said the complaint against Yuji Matono and Kyoei Mutual Fire & Marine Insurance, Co. was not properly served when it was sent via DHL mail service. Lizama said service of the complaint, which was only in English, did not comply with the Hague Convention regarding the service abroad of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil and commercial matters. Kiyomi Fujita Mafnas had filed the civil action before the Superior Court sometime

in 2003 after the death of her husband, Joaquin C. Mafnas.

December 5, 2008

Copper wire thefts

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on any of the person(s) responsible for the following recent copper wire thefts: On Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, DPS received a call at 12:40pm regarding a copper wire theft at two residential houses located behind Kagman High School. According to preliminary investigation, an unknown person(s) stole about 250 feet of secondary lines from two utility poles and about 185 feet of drop line wires. On the same date, DPS received a call at 2:20pm of a copper wire theft at the Retsa commercial building in As Perdido. Police learned that electrical wires were stolen from two panel boxes located on the south side of the building. Police learned that a storage room was also broken into. These cases are pending investigation.

Kilili leads NMI delegate race

Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan is leading his closest rival, Pete A. Tenorio, by 360 votes in the preliminary results of the Nov. 4 election to choose the CNMI's first ever delegate to the U.S. Congress. Sablan, the former executive director of the Election Commission, is leading the nine-man race with a total of 2,279 votes, followed by Tenorio, the incumbent Washington representative, who garnered a total of 1,919 votes. In third spot is TV talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, who has 1,740 votes. Former judge Juan T. Lizama is in fourth spot, with 1,611 votes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

CNMI joins world in honoring people with disabilities

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI made a giant leap yesterday by joining the rest of the world, and for the first time, in celebrating the International Day of People with Disabilities at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill.

It was a day of positivity as PWDs were celebrated and heralded for the many contributions they do in the society. At the proclamation of the IDP-WD, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios called for continued support for

all PWDs in the Marianas.

"Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I call on the people of the Marianas to continue to advocate for persons with disabilities and to ensure that they enjoy equal opportunities and have productive lives. They inspire us to keep our community stronger and closer," Palacios said.

Through the proclamation, the government assures all of the islands' PWDs, and their families, that the CNMI is committed to building an inclusive society and to providing an accessible environment for all.

The many contributions that PWDs make, both on the islands and abroad, were recognized, as well as their and their families' role in inspiring the rest of the community by contributing as self-sufficient members of the CNMI.

One of those whose contributions were celebrated is that of John Demapan, transit information specialist at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority and Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems.

"Embrace your disability and do positive things with it," De-

mapan said. "I encourage people to seek the services, be informed, and don't shy away because if you do, you will not be able to get the services that you rightfully need and deserve."

Demapan said the celebration is the first of its kind in the Marianas, with the day being celebrated internationally since 1992 to recognize and reflect on the contributions that PWDs have made in the workplace and in the community as a whole.

"This is a perfect opportunity for people with disabilities to get to know the services

available [in the Marianas], such as finding a job with OVR, or finding transportation with COTA, or getting legal assistance with NMPA-SI, and also housing opportunities and other aspects that people without disabilities take for granted. So this a great day of reflection," Demapan added.

Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan provided the keynote speech, and nongovernment group VOICES of the CNMI shared their success stories. Entertainment was provided by the Guma Simiyan Ma-

ñaina-ta CCVI Dumatsuri Dance Group, Parker Yobei, Northern Star Band, and Tatz Selepeo, Big Jay Selepeo, and Abs Kaipat. Miss Earth Northern Marianas Leisha Deleon Guerrero was also one of the attendees.

The very first International Day of People with Disabilities celebration in the CNMI was organized by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, with all its disability network partners. For more information, contact OVR at (670) 287-6609 or visit www.ovr.gov.net.



IVA MAURIN

Miss Earth Marianas 2019 Leisha Deleon Guerrero poses in one of the information booths at yesterday's proclamation signing of International Day of People with Disabilities at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill.



IVA MAURIN

It was a day of inspiration at the first International Day of People with Disabilities celebration on the islands yesterday at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill.



Many in attendance at yesterday's proclamation signing at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill check out the many information booths.



IVA MAURIN

Yesterday's proclamation signing of International Day of People with Disabilities at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill also had free refreshments. Here, people line up at a tent to get their refreshments.



IVA MAURIN



Members of the audience watch as Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios proclaimed yesterday the CNMI's celebration of International Day of People with Disabilities at the CNMI Center for Living Independently building on Capital Hill.

IVA MAURIN

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

In rare bipartisan move, Trump and Congress support democracy advocates in Hong Kong

We've been calling on Congress to pass the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act since August. So we were pleased when, shortly before adjourning for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Senate unanimously approved the bill and the House voted overwhelmingly (417-1) to send the legislation to President Donald Trump for his signature.

We were equally pleased when—after expressing concerns that doing so might threaten a U.S.-China trade deal—the president announced that he had signed the bill into law, along with another bill that prohibits the sale of tear gas, rubber bullets and other crowd-control munitions to the Hong Kong police.

Trump said he signed the bills “out of respect for President Xi, China and the people of Hong Kong” and “in the hope that leaders and representatives of China and Hong Kong will be able to amicably settle their differences leading to long-term peace and prosperity for all.” But he also knew that Congress was prepared—and had the votes—to override a veto.

At any rate, we—along with the throngs of Hong Kongers waving U.S. flags and celebrating in the streets this past week—are elated that Trump has chosen to stand for freedom at this crucial time in history.

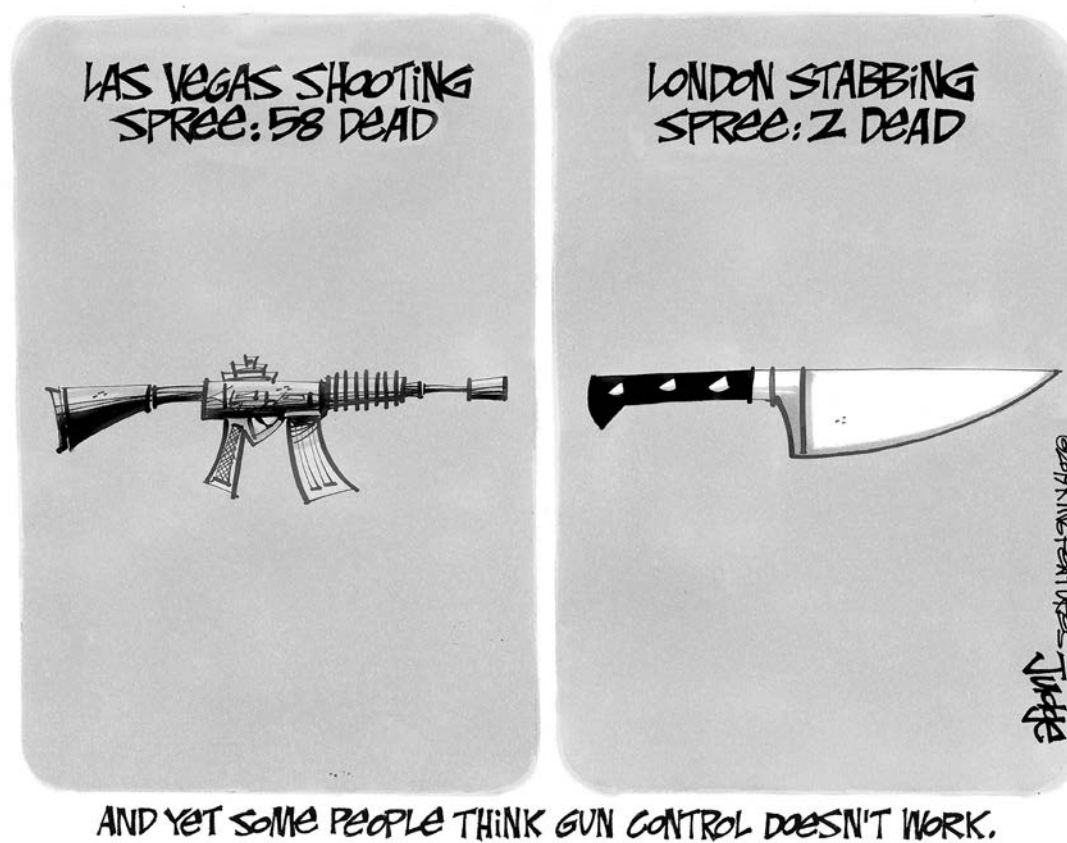
As we wrote in August, after months of pro-democracy protests, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act makes clear that “the human rights of the people of Hong Kong are of great importance to the United States” and that the U.S. supports the “democratic aspirations” of the people of Hong Kong, as “guaranteed to them” by law under the terms of the 1997 handover from British to Chinese rule. Last month’s landslide victory for pro-democracy candidates in Hong Kong’s local elections was further proof of the territory’s commitment to democratic reform.

Importantly, the new U.S. legislation—which Beijing has condemned as “interference” in China’s internal affairs—requires the State Department to file an annual report to Congress as to whether Hong Kong is “sufficiently autonomous from China” to merit continued preferential economic treatment. State will also evaluate whether guaranteed civil liberties are being recognized and protected in the territory. Meanwhile, the Commerce Department is to report on any efforts by Beijing to use Hong Kong to evade U.S. export controls and sanctions.

Perhaps most crucially, the laws require that the U.S. government impose sanctions on Chinese officials deemed responsible for human rights abuses in Hong Kong and bars such individuals from entering the U.S. This could have far-reaching consequences for anyone found to have violated “internationally recognized human rights in Hong Kong” including through “extrajudicial rendition” or “torture.”

The reason for this language is clear. The freedoms guaranteed Hong Kong’s 7.5 million people, a “semi-autonomous region” under Chinese and international law are under direct threat. Whether the rule of law is upheld in Hong Kong today, or whether it becomes just another outlying Chinese territory, like Xinjiang, whose residents are subject to mass surveillance, extrajudicial detainment and a vast network of internment camps, depends on whether the U.S. and the rest of what

See IN RARE on Next Page



Is a suicide prevention hotline scaring callers away?

Since September, the last thing a caller to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline hears before being connected to a counselor is this: “Your call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance purposes.”

As a Lifeline counselor, this alarms me.

Suicide is the 10th-leading cause of death in the U.S., and rates have increased in nearly every state from 1999 through 2016, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A person contemplating suicide is often dealing with societal prejudice surrounding mental health. When people call the hotline, they are often sharing secrets. Children may worry they are disappointing their parents by struggling with depression or other problems. Adults may fear losing their livelihood if their struggles become public.

In contrast, a suicide hotline counselor is a stranger on the phone who has been trained to connect and provide help. A private conversation used to be implicit. Now this sense of confidentiality is at risk, and it could have dire consequences.

When Lifeline counselors were informed that callers would hear the call “may be recorded” addition to the greeting, I felt ill. I quickly emailed the director of our local call center in Pennsylvania, expressing concern about what experienced Lifeline counselors know with certainty: A sense of anonymity is essential for many callers.

The response I received explained that many Lifeline call centers already record the calls. Since our calls are routed, they’re directed to a call center based on area code. For example, if someone is standing in California with a phone number starting with 609, their call will be sent to a New Jersey Lifeline call center. The notification prompt was added to comply with differing state wiretapping laws.

Federal and most state laws require one-party consent, meaning the recorder does not have to reveal the call is being recorded. But 11 states—including California and Pennsylvania—require two-party consent; all parties must be informed the call is being recorded.

Such a bureaucratic reason doesn’t take into consideration the emotional state of the person in crisis. Being told you “may be recorded” may inhibit people from sharing their distress with a Lifeline counselor.

As one of those counselors, I thoroughly understand why a caller to a suicide prevention line needs to speak with someone who will listen without judgment. I was once in a similar place. I woke up every day thinking the mental anguish would never end. A smiling mask hid my pain and helped me push through each day. My family encouraged me to get help. I started by seeing my family doctor, who referred me to a psychiatrist.

Since the greeting change was announced, I have spoken to at least 50 suicide prevention specialists, including therapists and social workers. They all had my same reaction—the prompt will cause callers with privacy concerns to hang up. The policy is

By **RAY REGAN**

Los Angeles Times

Ray Regan is a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline counselor and a member of the Chester County, Pa., Suicide Prevention Task Force.



putting lives at risk.

Vibrant Emotional Health, the administrator of Lifeline, distributed a “tip sheet” explaining how to address callers’ concerns about being recorded. For instance, if a caller expresses discomfort with being recorded, counselors were advised to “fully explore and address the caller’s feelings about call recording before attempting to proceed” with the call.

But the problem is not people who question us about being recorded. It’s people who hang up without talking to a counselor that concerns us. How many people have already hung up because of the “may be recorded” prompt?

Lifeline keeps track of callers who hang up but does not make the data public. It is impossible to know how many callers change their minds about talking to a counselor simply because they don’t want the conversation recorded.

The Federal Communications Commission has proposed making it easier for people to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by replacing the current 10-digit number with a three-digit hotline, 988. Mental health advocates say it will make it easier for people in crisis to seek help.

Just as the public learned to call 911 in an emergency after the number was established in the late 1960s, they will likely learn to call 988 when in crisis.

But a major difference would distinguish the lines: Although 911 calls are routinely recorded, callers do not necessarily receive a verbal reminder in two-party consent states. A beep-warning tone is generally transmitted over the line to indicate the conversation is being recorded. That’s much subtler than the prompt heard by callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Two months before the “may be recorded” prompt was added, I fielded a call from a 13-year-old girl. She was weeping, huddled in an empty classroom. She said she had thoughts of harming herself. Out of shame or fear, the young caller would not go to the school nurse or tell me her parents’ phone numbers.

After we had talked for another 20 minutes and developed some rapport, I said, “We need to get an adult to comfort you.” At that point, she gave me her dad’s work phone number. I called him, and he immediately went to rescue her.

A simple fact without an answer haunts me: How many calls like this have I missed since September because someone hung up once they learned this call “may be recorded”?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

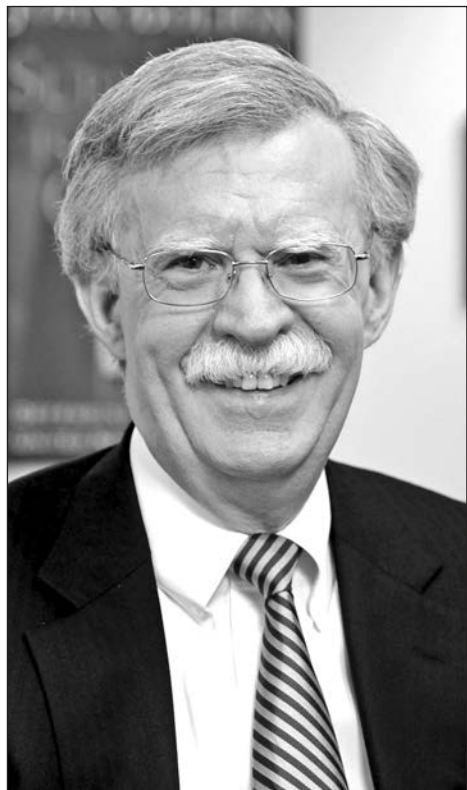
The impeachment holiday gift catalog

Flush with the holiday spirit, I have decided to hand out my presents early. Of course, given the economics of 21st-century journalism, I am offering the only gifts that I can afford—free advice.

Luckily, with the House Judiciary Committee kicking off impeachment hearings this week, Washington is filled with troubled and misguided souls in both parties who would benefit from my sage and selfless counsel.

JOHN BOLTON

Normally, a government official would be celebrating if within



two months of his forced departure from the White House, he was rewarded with a reported \$2 million book deal with Simon & Schuster. But Bolton, who lasted 17 months as Donald Trump's third national security adviser, may be counting his money with more than a tinge of loneliness.

Bolton has long been reviled by Democrats for his ultra-hawkish views and his

contempt for traditional diplomacy. It was why he could never be confirmed as ambassador to the United Nations under George W. Bush and had to settle for a recess appointment.

At the same time, Bolton, who views Russia as an implacable enemy and Kim Jong Un as an international menace, was never comfortable with Trump's dictators-are-my-buddies international style.

Too gruff and independent to be a Trump flunky, Bolton sent his deputy Fiona Hill to inform the White House lawyers when she learned of the administration's effort to shake down Ukraine to investigate Hunter Biden. According to Hill's testimony, Bolton even colorfully called the extortion plot a "drug deal" and stressed that he wanted no part of it.

Now, still no friend of the Democrats and loathed by Trump loyalists, Bolton has come to a career crossroads.

He has refused to testify before the House Intelligence Committee unless ordered by the courts, but he has also tantalized congressional investigators

with hints at what he might say. His attorney stated in a formal letter last month that Bolton "was personally involved in ... many relevant meetings and conversations that have not yet been discussed in the testimonies thus far."

Bolton seems to believe that he can have it both ways—not testify and then sometime after the election electrify the nation with bombshell revelations in his book.

My gift for Bolton may seem odd since it is nothing more than 40-year-old book sales figures. But they are deeply relevant to the decision that Bolton could make tomorrow or next week to be the last surprise impeachment witness.

Even though John Dean supposedly told his dramatic tale of a "cancer growing on the presidency" on television during the Senate Watergate hearings, his subsequent book, "Blind Ambition," sold more than 250,000 hardcover copies and 700,000 in paperback.

Bolton, who has a sizable ego, should ask himself, "Who will buy my book if I don't testify?"

Democrats are not likely to put up with his hawkish blustering about Iran, even if it comes with a few dishy Trump anecdotes that are served way too cold. And Bolton, who has already broken with Trump, should not expect the Republican National Committee to spend \$100,000 on bulk orders of his book, as they did for Donald Trump Jr.'s "Triggered."

So Bolton should—for both crass commercial reasons and to thwart Vladimir Putin's manipulation of Trump—make the hardest telephone call of his life, lifting up the receiver to tell Adam Schiff: "On due reflection, I'm ready to testify whenever you want me."

NANCY PELOSI

Given the deft way that she has handled impeachment up to now, Pelosi may seem like one of those people impossible to shop for since she has everything. But, in truth, she may have reached the point at which her bag of tricks is finally empty and she just wants impeachment to go away.

Pelosi scored a coup by disregarding egos, seniority and normal committee jurisdiction by handing the initial phase of the impeachment investigation to Schiff and the House Intelligence panel. But now, she may be thwarted as the House Judiciary



Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., right, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, joined by Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., left, makes an opening statement as the panel prepares to listen to former White House national security aide Fiona Hill, and David Holmes, a U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019. **AP**

By WALTER SHAPIRO

CQ-Roll Call

Walter Shapiro has covered the last 10 presidential campaigns. He is also a fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU and a lecturer in political science at Yale. Follow him on Twitter @MrWalterShapiro.



Committee, led by the uninspiring Jerry Nadler and filled with left-wing firebrands, begins its own hearings.

The speaker's apparent strategy is to rush things through so that the House votes on impeachment just before the Christmas



recess. But this breathless pace is a formula for Democratic disaster since a rushed House vote and a quickie trial in the Senate will fail to change any minds among either congressional Republicans or up-for-grabs suburban voters.

A far wiser approach would be for Pelosi to slow things down in a last-ditch effort to get other key figures like Bolton to testify, even if it requires a court

test of congressional subpoenas. Also, the articles of impeachment should be broad enough to include the foreign Emoluments Clause since so much of Trump's foreign policy seems entwined with his business dealings, especially his dream of a Trump Tower Moscow and the reality of his Trump-logoed twin towers in Istanbul.

HOUSE JUDICIARY REPUBLICANS

You have one coherent defense against impeachment: Trump's conduct regarding Ukraine was regrettable but not grave enough to remove him from office. This was the argument that retiring Texas Republican Will Hurd made in the House Intelligence Committee.

Instead, most Republicans on the Intelligence panel got caught up in the crazed and incomprehensible conspiracy theories of Jim Jordan. My advice to the Republicans is to accept the unanimous verdict of the United States intelligence services that it was Russia (and not Ukraine or the Duchy of Grand Fenwick) that hacked the 2016 election.

HOUSE JUDICIARY DEMOCRATS

Before you say a word during the upcoming hearings, ask yourself the simple question: "What would Jim Jordan do?" Then, lower your voice, drop the hyperbole and say the exact opposite.

IN RARE

From Page 10

we once called the "free world" takes a stand.

To his credit, when the International Consortium of Investigative Journalism recently published its shocking "China Cables" investigation detailing the extrajudicial detention of more than a million Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called on the Chinese government to "immediately" release anyone "arbitrarily" detained

in Xinjiang. "These reports are consistent with an overwhelming and growing body of evidence that the Chinese Communist Party is committing human rights violations and abuses against individuals in mass detention," he said.






It's no coincidence that the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act warns against similar human-rights abuses—and introduces stiff penalties and sanctions if the U.S. uncovers such abuses in the territory.

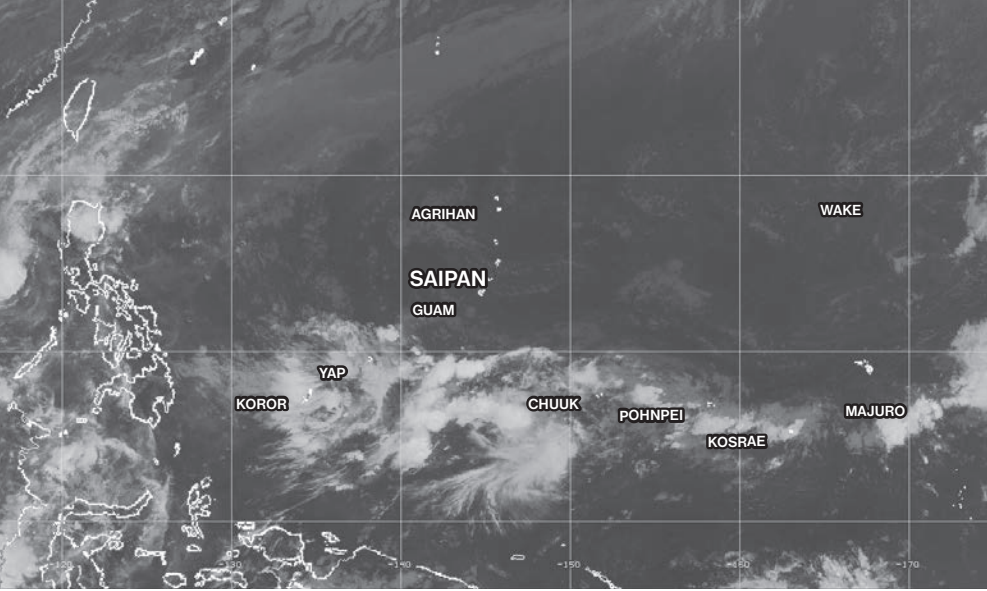
Texas Sen. Ted Cruz got it right when he wrote recently in these pages that "Hong Kong is the new Berlin." Similar to the Soviets during the Cold War, "the Chinese Communist Party

engages in routine censorship and surveillance of its citizens and commits atrocious human rights offenses." As Americans, Cruz continued, we "should remember that our unique defining principles have the power to tear down oppressive walls, topple tyrannies and promote freedom."

We agree with Cruz, and during this holiday season are thankful that Congress—and President Trump—have chosen to promote freedom in Hong Kong and stand with those who would risk their lives and livelihoods for greater democracy.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:03 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models are indicating that relatively dry weather will persist through the forecast with 700 mb relative humidity will be well below 50 percent through Monday. It appears that the dry season is here with increased trade-winds and a dry atmosphere and only isolated showers at best. To highlight the low rainfall potential...model rainfall accumulations through next Tuesday are less than an inch and some models the accumulation is at or below a half of an inch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°			
Pohnpei	Sunny	86° / 76°			
Kosrae	Sunny	86° / 76°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°			
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 19°			
Hong Kong	Windy	68° / 54°			
Honolulu	Cloudy	82° / 71°			
London	Cloudy	48° / 45°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 53°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	70° / 50°			
Miami	Showers	83° / 52°			
New York	Mostly Sunny	42° / 32°			
Osaka	Cloudy	48° / 39°			
Paris	Partly Cloudy	39° / 36°			
Busan	Partly Cloudy	45° / 30°			
Rome	Cloudy	55° / 46°			
Salem	Mostly Sunny	65° / 44°			
San Francisco	Showers	57° / 54°			
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 19°			
Tokyo	Cloudy	48° / 39°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	48° / 33°			



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:03 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.06
7:54 AM	LOW TIDE		0.26
3:17 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.59
10:04 PM	LOW TIDE		0.69

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:27 AM	1:09 PM
Friday	-	1:13 AM	1:45 PM
Saturday	-	2:00 AM	2:20 PM
Sunday	-	2:47 AM	2:57 PM
Monday	-	3:35 AM	3:36 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2019							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA104	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily	SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
				SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6	TW309	11:10am	4:25pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
TW310	5:25pm	10:15pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	4, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA184/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:40am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
				UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO GUAM				2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
				2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
				2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



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EA.



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LB.



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PACK



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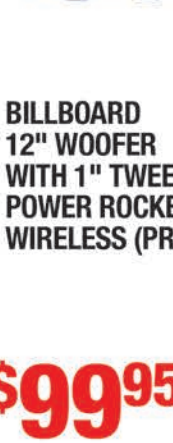
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Business

France to retaliate if US doubles Champagne, cheese prices

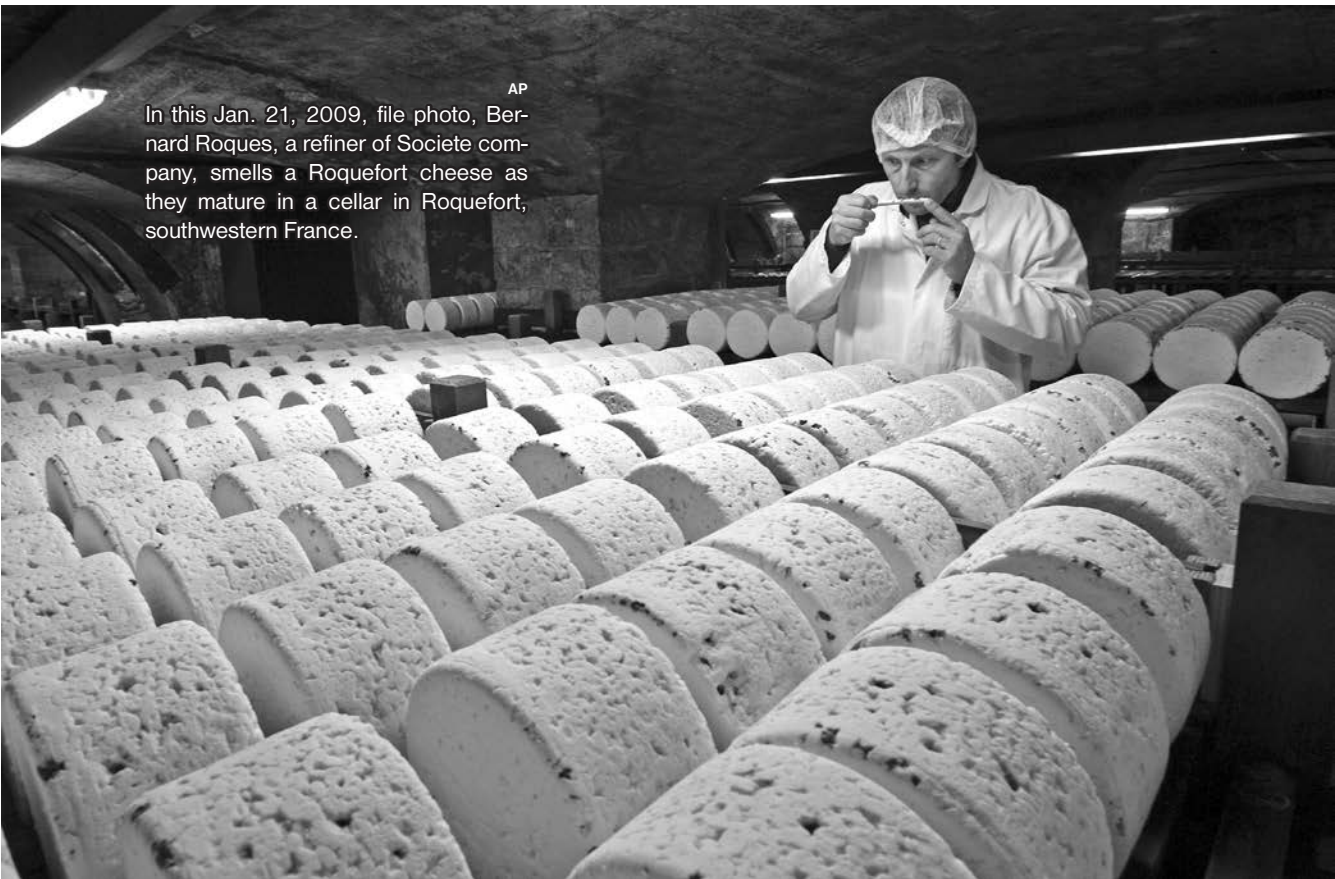
PARIS (AP)—France is bristling at a U.S. threat to slap 100% tariffs on French cheeses, Champagne and other products, with the French leader telling President Donald Trump on Tuesday that the move would amount to an attack on all of Europe.

The U.S. Trade Representative proposed the tariffs on \$2.4 billion in goods Monday in retaliation for a French tax on global tech giants including Google, Amazon and Facebook.

France's reaction was swift and robust, with President Emmanuel Macron and his finance minister both warning of a European riposte if the U.S. measure is implemented.

"We'll see where the discussions lead in the coming weeks, but it will involve a European response," Macron said in a meeting with Trump on the sidelines of a NATO summit in London. "Because, in effect, it wouldn't be France that is being sanctioned or attacked but Europe."

Macron said it's "not fair" that digital revenues are taxed less than real-life revenues. He said France shouldn't be



AP
In this Jan. 21, 2009, file photo, Bernard Roques, a refiner of Societe company, smells a Roquefort cheese as they mature in a cellar in Roquefort, southwestern France.

singled out for wanting to correct that imbalance with a tax on tech firms.

"My first question is what will happen with the United Kingdom, which adopted the same tax? For Italy, the same

tax? Austria, Spain ...," Macron asked. "If we're serious, those countries will have to be treated the same way."

The U.S. move is likely to increase trade tensions between the U.S. and Europe.

Trump said the European Union should "shape up, otherwise things are going to get very tough."

"I'm not in love with those (tech) companies, but they're our companies," Trump said ahead of his meeting with Macron.

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the U.S. tariff threat is "simply

unacceptable. ... It's not the behavior we expect from the United States toward one of its main allies."

The French tech tax, he said, is aimed at "establishing tax justice." France wants digital companies to pay their fair share of taxes in countries where they make money instead of using tax havens, and is pushing for an international agreement on the issue.

The problem is pronounced in Europe, where a foreign company can pay most of its taxes in the one EU country where it has its regional base - often a small country like Luxembourg or Ireland that tries to attract multinationals with very low corporate taxes.

Le Maire noted that France will reimburse the tax if the U.S. agrees to the international tax plan.

French wine and cheese producers expressed dismay about being caught in the middle of the battle over digital revenues. Cheese producers warned the U.S. measure would hit small businesses hardest.

Workers fired from Google plan federal labor complaint

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Four workers fired from Google last week are planning to file a federal labor complaint against the company, claiming it unfairly retaliated against them for organizing workers around social causes.

The former employees said Tuesday they are preparing to file unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board this week. All four were fired Nov. 25 for what Google said were violations of its data security policy.

Company officials wrote in a memo—without confirming the employees' names—that the four were "searching for, accessing, and distributing business information outside the scope of their jobs."

But the four workers—Laurence Berland, Sophie Waldman, Rebecca Rivers and Paul Duke—say they believe they did not violate company policies and claim that Google is using the alleged violations as

an excuse to terminate them for labor activity.

"This is an expression of Google's management power," Duke said. "They are scared of worker power."

Google disputes that they fired the employees for organizing activity.

"No one has been dismissed for raising concerns or debating the company's activities," the company said in a statement.

Google employees are known for being some of the most outspoken across the tech industry. Thousands of employees walked out of work last year to protest the company's handling of sexual misconduct claims, in what became known as the Google Walkout. Since then, employees have petitioned for better benefits for contract workers, successfully argued for the end of mandatory arbitration and have opposed Google's involvement in some government projects.

The company has also been known for an open, collaborative work culture since its early days, one that employee activists say is now getting closed off.

CEO Sundar Pichai's weekly question-and-answer sessions with employees became monthly meetings. Google also updated its community guidelines to tell employees to avoid "disrupting the workday" to debate politics or other topics. Some workers complain both moves were meant to discourage open speech and crack down on employee pushback.

Waldman and Duke helped create a petition earlier this year that called for Google to refrain from bidding on a cloud computing contract with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Nearly 1,500 employees signed the petition, which said CBP had "engaged in human rights abuses" at the southern border and that Google should not work with the agency.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

BankGuam Holding Company declares dividends

BankGuam Holding Company announced that its board of directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per share for the holders of its common stock and a dividend payment to the holders of the Company's 5.5% Fixed Rate/Floating Rate Noncumulative Preferred Stock, Series A, at its board's regular meeting held on Monday, November 25, 2019. The dividends will be paid on Dec. 31, 2019, to shareholders of record as of Dec. 13, 2019. (PR)

Ex-Bumble Bee CEO convicted in tuna price-fixing conspiracy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The former CEO of Bumble Bee Foods was convicted Tuesday for his part in a canned tuna price-fixing conspiracy involving the industry's top three companies, federal prosecutors said. A jury in San Francisco found Christopher Lischewski guilty after a four-week trial, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a release. He had pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors said Lischewski conspired with others in the industry to eliminate competition by setting prices for canned tuna from November 2010 until December 2013. Lischewski's attorney, John Kecker, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. Bumble Bee Foods itself agreed to pay a \$25 million fine after pleading guilty to price fixing in 2017. Lischewski supervised his subordinates' participation in the conspiracy, prosecutors said.

Elon Musk tells jurors insult provoked 'pedo guy' tweet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elon Musk testified Tuesday that he was being insulting, not literally calling a British cave diver a pedophile when he lashed out on Twitter and ended up in a defamation lawsuit from the man who helped rescue a dozen boys and their soccer coach from a flooded Thailand cave last year. The Tesla CEO told jurors that he called Vernon Unsworth "pedo guy" because he was upset the spelunker had belittled his efforts to build a mini-submarine to transport the boys to safety. The sub was never used and Unsworth called it nothing more than a "PR stunt" and said Musk could stick the craft "where it hurts." "It was wrong and insulting, so I insulted him back," the billionaire said in federal court in Los Angeles. "It was an unprovoked attack on what was a good-natured attempt to help the kids." Unsworth's lawyers argue that Musk's tweet overshadowed what should have been one of the diver's proudest moments and left him no choice but to sue. At the time, Musk said he didn't know Unsworth had helped with the rescue. He said his tweet wasn't asserted as a fact. "Just as I felt he didn't mean to sodomize me with a submarine, I likewise didn't think ("pedo guy") required any clarification," Musk said. "I will say it again, I apologize to Mr. Unsworth." Unsworth is seeking unspecified damages for pain, suffering and emotional distress from the tech entrepreneur whose net worth exceeds \$20 billion.

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British Pound	0.77	Indian Rupee	71.02	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Japanese Yen	108.57	South Korean Won	1,172.19
Chinese Yuan	6.94	Malaysian Ringgit	4.14	Swiss Franc	0.99
Euro	0.90	New Zealand Dollar	1.54	Taiwan Dollar	29.99
		Philippine Peso	50.10	Thailand Baht	30.24

Nation

DHS may require US citizens be photographed at airports

Wall builder who pitched to Trump on Fox wins \$400-million contract

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—Tommy Fisher's ambitious plan to win a border wall contract included what could be the next best thing to making a pitch directly to President Donald Trump himself—talking to him through his favorite cable TV channel, Fox News.

And it just may have worked.

Fisher's North Dakota-based firm was awarded a \$400 million contract this week to build 31 miles of wall in Arizona after he made numerous appearances on Fox, repeating a Trumpian boast that he could build the wall, faster, better and cheaper than anyone else. It didn't seem to matter that Fisher's firm had little experience with such construction, a checkered environmental record and a previous proposal rejected.

"Hopefully the president will see this," Fisher said in April on a Fox News morning show, among a slew of appearances on the channel that also included spots with Maria Bartiromo and Laura Ingraham. "He's a guy who says he can cut through bureaucracy, and this is an emer-

gency and that's what needs to be done."

Two administration officials familiar with the matter told The Associated Press earlier this year that Trump aggressively pushed the Fisher firm's bid with the heads of Homeland Security and the Army Corps of Engineers, which manages wall contracts. The interference in federal contracting by a president concerned some overseeing the process but, the officials said, Trump insisted Fisher could get the wall up faster and cheaper than other bidders.

In his own appearance on Fox's Sean Hannity show in April, Trump confirmed he was looking closely at Fisher's company after it was recommended to him by North Dakota's Republican Sen. Kevin Cramer.

Cramer, who received a \$10,000 campaign donation from Fisher and invited him to Trump's State of the Union address last year, said Tuesday that his constituent's frequent appearances on conservative TV and radio may not have helped him with the Army Corps but they "certainly helped him with the president."

Trump's 'serious misconduct' takes center stage at committee hearing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House Judiciary Committee is moving swiftly to weigh findings by fellow lawmakers that President Donald Trump misused the power of his office for personal political gain and then obstructed Congress' investigation as possible grounds for impeachment.

Responsible for drafting articles of impeachment, the Judiciary Committee prepared Wednesday morning for its first hearing since the release of a 300-page report by Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee that found "serious misconduct" by the president.

The report did not render a judgment on whether Trump's actions stemming from a July 25 phone call with Ukraine's president rose to the constitutional level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" warranting impeachment. That is for the full House to decide. But its findings involving Trump's efforts to seek foreign interven-

tion in the American election process provide the basis for a House vote on impeachment and a Senate trial carrying the penalty of removal from office.

"The evidence that we have found is really quite overwhelming that the president used the power of his office to secure political favors and abuse the trust American people put in him and jeopardize our security," Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., told The Associated Press.

"It was a difficult decision to go down this road, because it's so consequential for the country," Schiff said. But "the president was the author of his own impeachment inquiry by repeatedly seeking foreign help in his election campaigns."

Schiff added: "Americans need to understand that this president is putting his personal political interests above theirs. And that it's endangering the country."



In this Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, file photo, travelers walk through a security checkpoint in Terminal 2 at Salt Lake City International Airport, in Salt Lake City. AP

DALLAS (AP)—Federal officials are considering requiring that all travelers—including American citizens—be photographed as they enter or leave the country as part of an identification system using facial-recognition technology.

The Department of Homeland Security says it expects to publish a proposed rule next July. Officials did not respond to requests for more details.

Critics are already raising objections.

Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said Tuesday he will introduce legislation to block the plan and prohibit U.S. citizens from being forced to provide facial-recognition information. He said a recent data

breach at Customs and Border Protection shows that Homeland Security can't be trusted with the information.

Facial recognition is being tested by several airlines at a number of U.S. airports. American citizens are allowed to opt out of being photographed, although a 2017 audit by a federal watchdog agency found that few U.S. travelers exercised that right—barely more than one per flight.

Federal law requires Homeland Security to put into place a system to use biometrics to confirm the identity of international travelers. Government officials have made no secret of their desire to expand the use of biometrics, which they

say could identify potential terrorists and prevent fraudulent use of travel documents.

Homeland Security announced the possibility of expanding biometrics to U.S. citizens in a recent, brief filing. A spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, part of Homeland Security, said there would be a chance for the public to comment on any change in regulations.

In a November 2018 report, Homeland Security said facial recognition is the best biometric approach at borders because it can be done quickly and "with a high degree of accuracy." The agency said privacy risks "are mostly mitigated." Photos used to match

Americans to their identities are deleted within 12 hours, according to the report.

Jay Stanley, a policy analyst for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the government has told the public and Congress repeatedly that American citizens would be exempt from mandatory biometric screening.

"This new notice suggests that the government is renegeing on what was already an insufficient promise," Stanley said in a statement. "Travelers, including U.S. citizens, should not have to submit to invasive biometric scans simply as a condition of exercising their constitutional right to travel."

Bloomberg: I 'regret' impact of police tactics on minorities

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Michael Bloomberg expressed regret on Tuesday for the impact his hard-line policing tactics had on minorities during his time as New York City mayor and pledged during a meeting with advocates of reform to focus on criminal justice if elected president.

"One of the things I look back and regret is that we were too late in seeing the negative impact that our policies to save lives were having on day-to-day lives," Bloomberg said after meeting with a group of criminal justice reform advocates that included Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba and a number of previously incarcerated individuals.

Bloomberg, who served as mayor from 2002 to 2013, launched his Democratic

presidential campaign with an apology for his embrace of stop-and-frisk policing tactics, which give police wide latitude to detain individuals suspected of committing a crime and have been found to be used disproportionately against minorities. Before the meeting, Lumumba, an African American Democrat who leads a majority-black city, mentioned Bloomberg's apology and said he was "grateful (the mayor) acknowledged that wasn't the proper course of action."

Bloomberg's focus on criminal justice reform—and the Mississippi setting for the discussion—underscores the challenges confronting his unorthodox campaign for president. As a late entry into the race, the 77-year-old Bloom-

berg is eschewing the traditional focus on early primary states and instead campaigning mostly across states that hold their primaries in March, in hopes of making a play for a rash of delegates. He's also emphasized his change of heart on stop and frisk since the very start of his campaign, an implicit acknowledgement that he might face challenges in winning over black voters and progressives because of some of his more controversial policies as mayor.

Bloomberg noted that New York's crime and homicide rate decreased during his tenure, but he acknowledged the unintended consequences his policies had on the city's minority population.

"I do want people to know what's in my heart. I've

thought long and hard about this. No one should ever feel targeted or judged by the color of their skin, especially by police," he said.

Some activists are skeptical of Bloomberg's apology, noting that it comes as he's seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. Many people of color found the tactic of stop and frisk humiliating and degrading, and statistics showed that minorities were far more likely to be subjected to such a search.

On Tuesday, the white billionaire criticized a criminal justice system "tilted against African American and Latino communities" as "disgraceful" and promised that if he's elected president, "that will be one of my key things to work on."

Asia

Powerful typhoon leaves at least 4 dead in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Typhoon Kammuri barreled across the Philippines with fierce winds and rain Tuesday, leaving at least four people dead, forcing hundreds of thousands of villagers to abandon high-risk communities and prompting officials to shut Manila's international airport.

Kammuri toppled trees and electrical posts, ripped off tin roofs and battered a provincial airport as it blew across island provinces in the southern fringes of the main northern Luzon island before blowing into the South China Sea. It weakened but remained dangerous with maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometers (81 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 200 kph (124 mph) as it exited, forecasters said.

At least four people died and several others were reported injured, with officials attributing the low casualty figure to the early evacuation of hundreds of thousands of villagers from villages prone to high waves, flash floods and landslides.

A villager was electrocuted while fixing the battered roof of his house in Libmanan town in Camarines Sur province in the hard-hit Bicol region, regional disaster response officer Claudio Yucot said. In Oriental Mindoro, one of the last provinces to be lashed by the typhoon, a man died after



AP
Police inspect a truck that was damaged as Typhoon Kammuri slammed Legazpi city, Albay province, southeast of Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019.

were affected by the power outages, officials said.

In Manila, officials shut the international airport for seven hours starting before noon Tuesday as the typhoon roared through provinces south of the capital. More than 400 domestic and international flights were canceled due to the airport closure, airport manager Ed Monreal said.

Authorities moved thousands of Boy Scouts attending a jamboree in the mountainous town of Botolan in the northwestern province of Zambales.

The Philippines postponed several competitions in the Southeast Asian Games, which it is hosting, because of the stormy weather, including wind surfing, polo and tennis matches in Manila and outlying provinces. Organizers said other events would be delayed if needed for safety but there was no plan to extend the 11-day games which opened Saturday.

The coast guard suspended sea travel in the northeast, stranding more than 7,000 travelers along with thousands of cargo ships and smaller watercraft in the archipelago nation.

being pinned by a fallen tree and another perished after being hit by a tin roof, Gov. Huernito Dolor said.

A construction worker on his way home on a motorcycle was hit by a falling tree and died in the port city of Ormoc in Leyte province, police said.

"There could have been more if we did not do pre-emptive evacuations," Dolor

told reporters.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year and has frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, making the archipelago of more than 100 million people one of the world's most disaster-prone nations.

Evacuating entire villages and communities and providing supplies to huge numbers

of residents camped in schools and government buildings used as emergency shelters is common during typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, largely because many mostly poor communities are in disaster-prone areas.

Kammuri's pounding rain and wind damaged the airport in Legazpi city in Albay province, collapsing a portion of its

ceiling, scattering chairs in the arrival and departure areas and shattering glass panes. A truck turned on its side after being buffeted by strong winds in the city, near Mount Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanos.

Albay is one of several provinces in the Bicol region which lost post power due to toppled posts and downed transmission lines. Nearly 2 million people

ASIAN BRIEFS

China launches series of rebukes against US Uighur bill

BEIJING (AP)—China has responded with swift condemnation after U.S. Congress overwhelmingly approved a bill targeting its mass crackdown on ethnic Muslim minorities. The legislation condemns the detention of an estimated 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and others in China's far west Xinjiang region. Chinese government departments Wednesday published a slew of strongly worded rebukes to the bill, calling it another example of U.S. interference into China's internal affairs. The Foreign Affairs Commission of China's legislature says the U.S. has "turned a blind eye" to its efforts to combat terrorism and safeguard human rights in Xinjiang. The commission says the bill "disregards the facts and mixes up black and white." Relations between the countries were already strained by President Donald Trump's signing of human rights legislation on the Hong Kong protests last week.

India says Pakistan firing kills 2 civilians in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—The Indian military said Pakistani soldiers fired at about a dozen border posts in civilian areas along the highly militarized frontier in divided Kashmir on Tuesday, leaving two civilians dead and seven others injured. Indian army spokesman Lt. Col.

Devender Anand said Pakistani soldiers fired mortars and small arms at the posts in Poonch sector along the Line of Control dividing Kashmir between the two nuclear-armed rivals. Anand says Indian soldiers "retaliated effectively." He called it an "unprovoked" violation of the 2003 cease-fire between Indian and Pakistan. There was no immediate comment from Pakistan. A local civil administrator, Rahul Yadav, said at least three villages were affected by Tuesday's cross-border shelling. He said one of dead was a 17-year-old student and the other was a 25-year-old woman. He said all the injured were being treated in hospitals. India and Pakistan have a long history of bitter relations over Kashmir, which both claim. Tuesday's fighting comes amid a lockdown in Indian-administered Kashmir after New Delhi stripped the region of its semi-autonomy in early August.

Kim again rides horse up mountain as nuke deadline nears

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea says leader Kim Jong Un has taken a second ride on a white horse to a sacred mountain in less than two months. The Korean Central News Agency on Wednesday released photos showing Kim riding a white horse to snow-covered Mount Paektu along with his wife and other officials, also on white horses. The mountain is the high-

est peak on the Korean Peninsula, and Kim has previously went there before making major decisions. The latest trip comes as a year-end deadline set by Kim for Washington to come up with new proposals to salvage nuclear diplomacy is approaching. He went to the mountain on a horseback in October. KCNA says North Korea's ruling party will hold a central committee meeting later this month to discuss unspecified "crucial issues."

Israeli court OKs evaluation of Australia sex crimes suspect

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's Supreme Court has rejected an appeal by a former educator accused of sexually abusing students in Australia, paving the way for a new psychiatric evaluation to determine her fitness to stand trial for extradition. Australia wants Malka Leifer extradited to face 74 charges of abusing students while she was principal at a Jewish religious school in Melbourne. Prosecutors say she is feigning mental illness to dodge extradition. Tuesday's decision upheld a lower court's ruling ordering a re-evaluation and rejected Leifer's attorneys' claims that there were no grounds for a new evaluation. Kol V'Oz, an Israeli advocacy group against child sexual abuse, said it believes the panel will find that Malka Leifer is "fit to face justice and that the extradition process will finally recommence."

Trump's US-Japan trade accord wins Japan parliament approval

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Parliament on Wednesday approved a trade deal that was agreed upon by President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe earlier this year.

The deal cutting tariffs between the countries takes effect at the beginning of next year. It cleared Japan's upper house Wednesday after clearing the more powerful lower house earlier.

Some critics say the deal is more advantageous to the U.S. since a 2.5% tariff on Japanese automobiles remains.

The deal will pave the way for cheaper American beef and other agricultural products in Japan.

Trump withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement, negotiated by the Obama administration.

U.S. farmers have felt they were at a disadvantage compared to Australian or Canadian counterparts.

Japan also reached a separate trade deal with Europe.

Japan, which imports U.S.

farm products worth \$14 billion, is America's third-largest market.

The U.S. and Japan have agreed to continue talks on trade, and the auto tariffs are likely to come up in the talks.

The Japanese auto industry is a key part of this nation's economy, although the manufacturers, such as Toyota Motor Corp. and Honda Motor Co., have moved production abroad to avert tariffs and become part of American business.

When the trade deal was reached in September, Trump said it means opening Japan's market to about \$7 billion in U.S. farm goods, with tariffs lowered or scrapped on American beef, pork, wheat, cheese, corn and wine.

Abe has called the deal a "win-win," prompting criticism from the opposition. Japanese farmers form a large support base for Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Japan has long had protectionist policies on agricultural imports, especially rice.

World

NATO chief seeks to shore up unity as rows roil allies

LONDON (AP)—With questions raised over NATO's credibility, the Western military alliance struggled to present a united front Tuesday as some of its biggest member countries traded barbs over their visions for the future.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg sought to shore up unity as leaders from across the 29-member trans-Atlantic alliance gathered in London to mark its 70th anniversary and to show that it is adapting to

modern threats.

"NATO is the most successful alliance in history because we have been able to change when the world is changing," Stoltenberg said after talks with U.S. President Donald Trump.

"That is exactly what we are doing again," he said.

Though NATO has thousands of troops deployed in the Baltics and Poland to dissuade Russia from any military forays like those it launched in Ukraine and Georgia in the recent past, the strength of that military deterrent has been undermined by recent bickering among some leaders.

Ahead of the London summit, French President Emmanuel Macron alarmed his allies by lamenting the "brain death" of NATO, in part due to what he said was a lack of U.S. leadership, but also because of Turkey's invasion of northern Syria.

Trump has described Macron's comments as "very, very nasty." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has suggested that it might



A person holds a placard during a demonstration against the NATO summit and U.S. President Donald Trump's visit, in London, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019. AP

Northern Mexico fears return to dark past after gunfights

VILLA UNION, Mexico (AP)—Mexico's president says he wants to fight drug cartels with "hugs, not bullets," but after 23 people were killed in a weekend gunbattle in the border state of Coahuila, some communities want a more forceful strategy to prevent cartel assailants from re-imposing a reign of terror.

Residents of the small town of Villa Union said Tuesday that they fear a return to the days of 2010-2013, when the old Zetas cartel killed, burned and abducted Coahuila citizens. This past weekend, the Cartel del Noreste—an offshoot of the Zetas—invaded Villa Union to try to reassert a claim to the turf.

Villa Union is 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the town of Allende, the site of a 2011 massacre in which the Zetas killed at least 70 people. Residents said they have learned from experience that the Zetas must be fought.

"You can't give a drug trafficker a hug and not expect to receive a bullet in return," said a former policeman in Allende who would not give his name for fear of reprisals. "That is the only way to fight them off, to prevent them from returning to our towns and ruling them, is with bullets."

The ex-policeman and his family had to flee Allende for a while in 2011 in the face of Zeta threats. He doesn't want to have to flee again.

Many others expressed similar fears.

Sandra Zedillo, a municipal employee in Villa Union, said "it doesn't look good. We are afraid they will return." The atmosphere of dread was underscored by the funeral procession held Tuesday for a local firefighter who was abducted and killed by the gang.

"This hurts," a rancher said. "The firefighter paid for something that he didn't have any part in."

Israel to UN: Uprooted Jews should be seen as refugees

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Israel wants the United Nations to recognize as refugees hundreds of thousands of Jews who fled Arab and Muslim countries in the last century, its U.N. envoy said Tuesday.

Ambassador Danny Danon told the U.N. General Assembly that he plans to propose a resolution about what he called "the 'forgotten' Jewish refugees."

"We don't hear the international community speak of them when they discuss the refugees of the conflict, perhaps because it doesn't serve the Palestinian narrative," Danon said, accusing the international community of taking a one-sided approach to refugees and other aspects of the conflict.

He didn't detail his planned resolution, except to say that it would "acknowledge the wrong done" to the Jews in question and "make right the injustice that they suffered."

Palestinian Ambassador Riyad Mansour reiterated appeals for humanitarian aid for

Palestinian refugees and said the assembly's long history of resolutions on the conflict don't amount to prejudice against Israel.

"It doesn't work that way," he told the group.

The remarks came as the assembly weighed, and ultimately approved, resolutions that continue the work of various U.N. components concerned with Palestinian matters and reiterate a roster of longstanding positions on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. One measure includes a call for a stop to Israeli settlement of areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war—a stance given new resonance by the recent U.S. announcement that it no longer believes the settlements violate international law.

Danon said an estimated 850,000 Jews were forced out of Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Iran, and many other countries during the 20th century after enduring violence and persecution. Many fled to Israel around the time of its establishment in 1948.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Isabel Villagomez Camacho

"Beck Kipu"

September 12, 1946 – November 27, 2019

In her new life she joins:
Parents: †Jose Sema Villagomez and †Antonia Pangelinan Tenorio Villagomez
Parents in law: †Vidal Palacios and †Maria Agoun Camacho
Grandson: †Dre Devin Hernandez Camacho

Her memory forever lives in the hearts of her:
Husband: Francisco Aguon Camacho
Children/Grandchildren/Great-Grandchildren:
Frank and Emy Camacho (Frankeli, Mario/Humpylyna and Eligiah)
Jacqueline and Nicolas Leon Guerrero (Joseph II/Therese and Children, Gregory/Tiana and Children, Brandon/Kaitleen and son, Christopher, Vicente, Samantha/Shawn and Children, Sandy/Justin and Children, Kenneth/Colleen and Children, Ariel and son)
Michael and Lillian Camacho (Brittany, Colette and Michael)
Vidal and Petelyn Camacho (Vidal, Irie and Aisha)
Esther and Robert Suzuki (Robert Jr., Anthony/Crystal and Kohlin, Angelynn and Goralynn)
Pauline and Pedro Jeffrey Roligat (Nikki: Zion and Leisabwepiy, Ethan, Nathan, Tanicio and RickyJay, Lupe/Myron and children)
John Paul/Theresa Camacho (Troy, Kyle, Elyssa, Cheyenne, Jessarae and Daniel)
Frances and Randy Sablan (Gabriella, Raelene, Drake and Zackary)

Brothers, Sisters & in-laws:
 †Remedio Camacho and Family
 †Daniel and Rosario Villagomez and Family
 †Roman and Cecilia Villagomez and Family
 †Antonio and †Remedio Villagomez and Family
 †Jesus and †Vicenta Villagomez and Family
 †Joaquin and †Remedio Villagomez and Family
 †Jose and Magdalena Villagomez and Family
 Frances and Ron Sintkowski and Family

Brothers, Sisters & In-laws:
 †Herbert "Michang" and †Ignacia "Achalang" San Nicolas and Family
 †Gregoria and †Juan Cabrera and Family
 †Bishop Emeritus Thomas A. Camacho
 †Vicenta Aguon Camacho
 †Antonio Aguon Camacho and Family
 Juan and †Emilia Camacho and Family
 Roman and Beverly M. Camacho and Family

Mass is being offered at San Jose Church at 6:00pm followed by Rosary at 7:00pm until Thursday, December 05, 2019

Our Mom †Isabel will be with us for the last time on Saturday, December 07, 2019 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 7:30AM for Responso Service and public visitation.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed with the Rite of Committal at the Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to her final place of rest.

Your thoughts, Prayers and Words of Comfort are Sincerely Appreciated.
Francisco A. Camacho (Paco) and Family

Environment

AP
In this Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019 photo, Lucas Lamb-Wooten, a PhD student at Florida International University, measures a blade of sawgrass during a research outing at Everglades National Park, near Flamingo, Fla. Lamb-Wooten is studying peat collapse in a coastal saw grass marshes. Research assistant Laura Bauman records data at left.

To save Everglades, GUARDIANS FIGHT TIME—AND CLIMATE

By ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press

F L A M I N G O , Florida (AP)—Grabbing a clump of vegetation to steady herself, Tiffany Troxler gingerly slides her feet along the makeshift boardwalk as she ventures out into the marsh. The boards sag, dipping her up to her knees in the tea-colored water.

"This is the treacherous part," the Florida International University researcher says. "The water levels are up."

To a layman, this patch of brown-green saw grass and button mangrove deep inside Everglades National Park looks healthy enough, but Troxler knows trouble lurks just beneath the murky surface. She points to a clump of grass: Beneath the water line, the soil has retreated about a foot, leaving the pale root mass exposed. It is evidence that the thick mat of peat supporting this ecosystem is collapsing — and research suggests encroaching sea water is to blame.

"You can think about these soils as your bank account," says Troxler, associate director of FIU's Sea Level Solutions Center. "In the condition that this marsh is right now, the outlook is not good."

Formed roughly 5,000 years ago, during a time of sea level rise, the Everglades once comprised an area twice the size

of New Jersey. But over the course of just the last century, about half of the Everglades' original footprint has been lost — plowed under or paved over, never to be recovered, so long as South Florida's 8 million human inhabitants claim it for their homes, livelihoods and recreation.

The glades have been sapped by canals and dams that remapped the landscape and altered animal habitats, polluted by upstream agricultural areas, transformed by invasive species. And now, rising sea levels — this time, caused by man — threaten to undo what it took nature millennia to build.

What the Army Corps of Engineers calls a "highly managed system," others have sardonically labeled a "Disney Everglades."

Nearly two decades and \$4 billion into the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, an ambitious federal-state program adopted in 2000, new data about the pace of climate change have called into question how much of the Everglades can ever be restored.

"I tend to think that everything can be saved," says Fred Sklar of the South Florida Water Management District, which monitors and runs much of the Everglades' infrastructure. "Restored is another question."

■ ■ ■

Today, we understand that

natural systems like the untouched Everglades provide enormous benefits — water filtration, nurseries for fish and other wildlife, protection from storm surges, even carbon sequestration. But to 19th-century Floridians, all that water — and the mosquitos and reptiles it harbored — represented an impediment to progress.

And so when Florida became a state in 1845, one of the Legislature's first acts was to pass a resolution asking Congress to survey the "wholly valueless" Everglades "with a view to their reclamation."

Beginning in earnest during the 1880s, a host of entities set about draining the swamp. They dug canals carrying nutrient-laden water that altered the salinity of coastal estuaries and caused toxic algae blooms. They seeded the wetlands from

the air with a thirsty, paper-barked Australian tree called melaleuca. The vast custard apple forest that girded the lake's southern shore was torched. And peat soils that had accumulated over thousands of years dried up and blew away, causing the ground to shrink 6 feet in some places.

And still, the tinkering continued.

It was an event in 1928 that, as much as any, altered the Everglades' course. That year, a hurricane overwhelmed a dike at Lake Okeechobee — the Everglades' 730-square-mile "liquid heart" — causing a deluge that killed 3,000 people. The resulting 143-mile, 30-foot-high Herbert Hoover Dike now nearly completely surrounds the lake, permanently severing its connection to the park.

Scientists estimate that more

than 650 billion gallons of fresh water a year once flowed south into what is now the national park. Today, that flow is about 280 billion gallons.

Now, some of the same canals and levees and pumps that helped drain the Everglades are being used to try to save them. Alongside the Everglades Agricultural Area, the 700,000-acre checkerboard of sugar cane and winter vegetable fields south of Lake Okeechobee, huge tracts are being converted to store and clean water for use when and where it is needed.

Perhaps the biggest step toward that end so far is the re-engineering of Tamiami Trail, the east-west highway that essentially has acted as a dike through the heart of the Everglades since the 1920s. Since 2013, workers have elevated 3.3 miles of the roadway, allowing water to flow freely into Shark River Slough, historically the deepest and wettest part of the Everglades.

"We're starting to see the vegetation respond, and we're getting more of those marsh grasses, more of those open water sloughs," says Stephen Davis, a senior ecologist with the Everglades Foundation. "I'm very confident that we can restore this ecosystem. And by restoration, I mean enhancing the functionality of what remains."

■ ■ ■

In 2015, the Corps submit-

ted its most recent report to Congress, estimating the total cost of restoration at \$16 billion — about twice the original projection. Three years later, panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine urged a sweeping reassessment of the projects in the pipeline, warning that the current work is lagging behind the pace of climate change and could take 65 years to complete at the current funding levels.

When the restoration plan was adopted in 2000, its authors were anticipating seas to rise only 6 inches by 2050. They've since already risen 5 inches.

Earlier this year, an inter-agency group that includes the Corps of Engineers and the National Park Service issued its latest Everglades status report, writing that "the region's ecosystems are degraded and the anticipated ecological benefits of restoration are still to be realized."

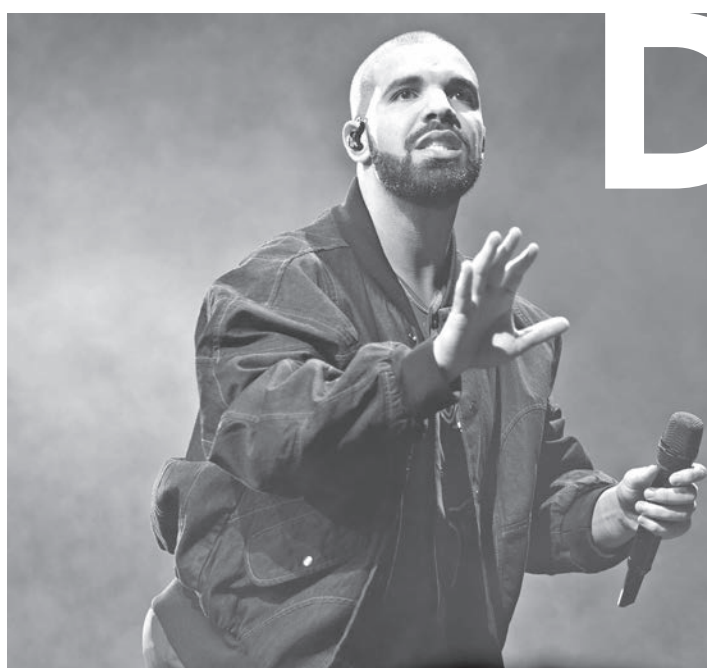
Still, there are at least some hopeful signs.

Scientists poking through the bellies of wood storks, an "indicator species" for Everglades restoration, have found evidence that they are feasting on the non-native African jewelfish. And the endangered Everglades snail kite is showing a fondness for an exotic species of the mollusk, another latecomer to the region.



AP
In this Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019, photo, a housing development built in Everglades wetlands is seen from the air near Naples, Fla.

Life & Style



AP
In this Oct. 8, 2016 file photo, Drake performs onstage in Toronto. The rapper has been named Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade.

Drake is Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade

NEW YORK (AP)—Drake is the king of streaming: the rapper has been named Spotify's most-streamed artist of the decade.

Spotify announced Tuesday that Drake has been streamed 28 billion times in the last 10 years. Ed Sheeran came in second, while Post Malone,

Ariana Grande and Eminem round out the Top 5. Sheeran's "Shape of You" was the most-streamed song of the decade.

For 2019, Post Malone is the top-streamed artist globally. Billie Eilish, Grande, Sheeran and Bad Bunny round out the Top 5. Eilish's debut album—"When We All Fall Asleep,

Where Do We Go?"—is the year's most-streamed album, while Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's "Senorita" tops the list of the most-streamed songs.

"The Joe Budden Podcast with Rory & Mal" is the year's most-streamed podcast on Spotify.

More pressure on Prince Andrew after alleged victim on TV

LONDON (AP)—Prince Andrew was missing when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, hosted NATO leaders at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday evening, but he was the focus of renewed scrutiny as allegations of sexual misconduct received wide attention on British TV.

Andrew, who has stepped down from royal duties because of his involvement with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, was the subject of a BBC documentary broadcast Monday night in which he was accused of having sex with a 17-year-old American trafficked by Epstein.

President Donald Trump

declined to offer an opinion when asked about the case earlier Tuesday, saying only that he didn't know Andrew but that it was a "very tough story." However, the alleged victim's father did weigh in, telling the ITV network he believes his daughter Virginia Roberts Giuffre's account is factual.

'Baby Shark' creators plan Navajo version of popular video

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Creators of the popular video "Baby Shark," whose "doo doo doo" song was played at the World Series in October and has been a viral hit with toddlers around the world, are developing a version in Navajo.

Pinkfong, a brand of the South Korea company SmartStudy, announced last week it is working with the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona, to create a new

version of the widely popular tune about a family of sharks.

The project was launched after museum director Manuelito Wheeler reached out to SmartStudy in September about translating "Baby Shark" into Navajo. The museum previously had lobbied for Navajo versions of the movies "Star Wars" and "Finding Nemo" that were eventually made.

"I was surprised by their enthusiasm and excitement about getting this started,"

Wheeler said Tuesday. "We have been looking for something aimed at preschoolers."

SmartStudy has translated the "Baby Shark" tune of the viral video in 19 languages, including English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, German, Arabic, and Bahasa-Malay.

The company hopes its latest project will spark interest in the Navajo language among the tribe's young generation, SmartStudy marketing manager Kevin Yoon said in an email.

Obamas' publisher makes new pledge to education organization

NEW YORK (AP)—The publisher of Barack and Michelle Obama has pledged to donate 300,000 children's books to a leading educational organization, adding to the 1 million copies already given.

Penguin Random House announced Tuesday that it had joined with the former president and former first lady in

contributing to First Book (www.firstbook.org) in the Obama family's name. For every \$3 donated to First Book between now and the end of the year, Random House will give two new books to First Book, up to 300,000 books. First Book distributes books and other resources to schools and programs serving children from

low-income communities.

The initial First Book contribution was announced by Penguin Random House upon acquiring memoirs by the Obamas in 2017. Michelle Obama's million-selling "Becoming" came out last year. Barack Obama is currently working on his book about his years in the White House.

In first, Turner Prize for art goes to all 4 finalists

LONDON (AP)—The prestigious Turner Prize for art has been awarded to—everyone.

All four of the artists chosen as finalists won this year's award after they wrote to the jury and asked to be treated as a collective, prize organizers said Tuesday during a ceremony at the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate, southeast England.

Artists Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Helen Cammock, Oscar Murillo and Tai Shani said that, at a time when the world is divided, they wanted "to make a collective statement in the name of commonality, multiplicity and solidarity—in art as in society."

Jury president Alex Farquharson said award judges agreed



AP
From left; Tai Shani, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Helen Cammock and Oscar Murillo, after being announced as the winners for the 2019 Turner Prize at Dreamland Margate, in London, Tuesday December 3, 2019.

unanimously to the request.

Farquharson, director of the Tate Britain gallery in London, said the four artists—Beirut-based Hamdan and London

artists Cammock, Murillo and Shani—had not met before they were shortlisted for the prize earlier this year, but had since "formed a real creative and ethical bond."

Girlfriend closely attached to son is distant to family

DEAR ABBY: One of my sons is dating a young woman who seems to care deeply for him, but is very cool and distant to our family. He goes to nearly all of her family's events, but she seldom comes to any of ours.

She has been to one birthday get-together at a restaurant, a wedding and a play where I bought the tickets for her, myself and all my daughters-in-law. She has been invited to family dinners at one or another of our homes, Christmas celebrations, Thanksgivings, birthdays—you name it—but has not come to any of them. My husband and I hand-make our gifts to her, which require a lot of time and effort. Last year, she sent us each a gift for Christmas.

They have been dating for several years. When they are apart, she texts him constantly. I am confused and troubled by her indifference to us. We have been more than welcoming to her. Is there anything I or we could do to help her warm up to us?

FLUMMOXED MOM IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FLUMMOXED: Have you talked with your son about this? If not, you should. You are already doing everything you can, so prepare to batten down the hatches. If your son eventually marries this insecure young woman, she will continue isolating him from his family and absorb him into her own. When the grandchildren come, they will spend the majority of their time with her family and not yours.

It is harsh, but it's the truth. Unless your son is strong enough to put his foot down, it's exactly what will happen. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: I am a naturally thin young woman. Oftentimes, especially when I'm working in offices with older women, my co-workers comment on their dissatisfaction with their weight and how they wish their body could be more like mine.

To be honest, I don't equate thinness with beauty or fat with ugliness. But when I try to tell these women I think they are beautiful as they are, it's received with suspicion, as if they think I don't mean what I say. How can I respond to those who are unhappy with their weight without sounding insincere? I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings.

THIN IN FLORIDA

DEAR THIN: When your co-workers compliment you about your figure, smile and say thank you. Period. If they express dissatisfaction with their appearance, do not allow yourself to be drawn into the conversation. You can't alleviate their insecurities; they haven't believed you when you tried. Because the subject makes you uncomfortable, try changing the topic to another one.

DEAR ABBY: Is there a place where I can donate puzzles? I always make sure all the pieces are there. I put them in a zip

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



bag inside a taped box so anyone who gets them would be getting something that's as good as new. I have a whole closet full, and I need to find a place to donate them. They are too nice to throw away.

WANTING TO SHARE IN WASHINGTON

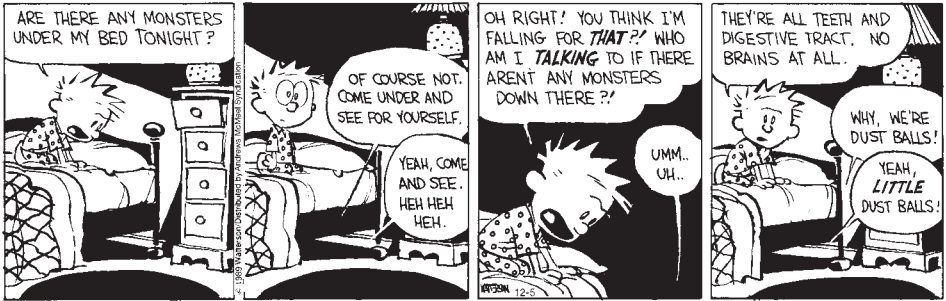
DEAR WANTING: I am sure that if you call around you will discover that senior centers, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, churches, schools and rehabilitation facilities could put those puzzles to good use. It's worth a try.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

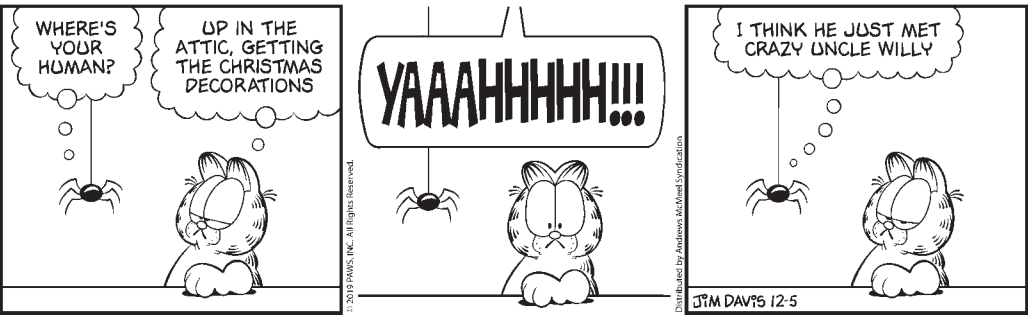
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



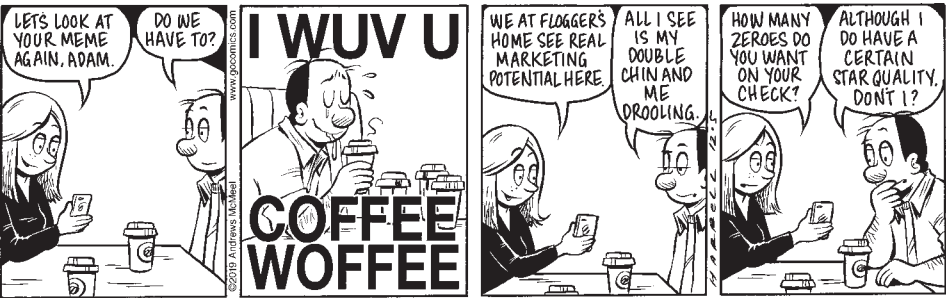
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



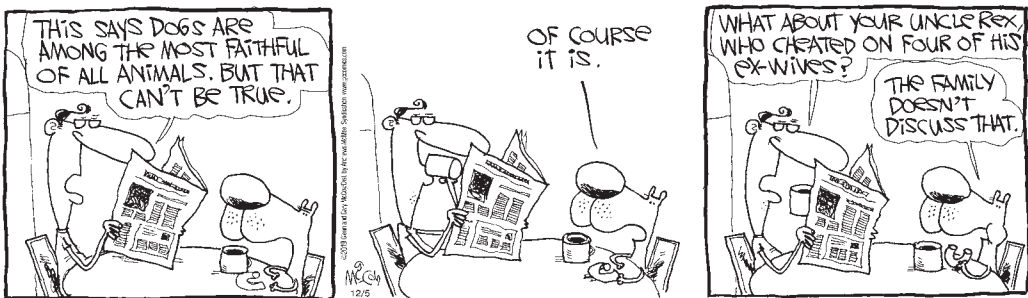
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Jessica of "Dark Angel"

5 Sound booster

8 Logical

12 Tree bump

13 — -jongg

14 Despot

15 Astronomer Sagan

16 Mex. neighbor

17 Jazzy James

18 Coercion

20 Forbidden act

22 Separate quarters for a visitor

26 Host

29 — de plume

30 Gist

31 Melodies

32 River blocker

33 Classic theaters

34 — -Magnon

DOWN

1 Alphabet quartet

2 Hawaiian feast

3 "I'm freezing!"

4 Claims site

5 Tickle

6 Pas' mates

7 Apparition

8 Shorthand pro

9 Flabbergasts

10 D.C. baseballer

11 Historic period

19 Take to court

21 Resistance unit

23 Major mix-up

24 Fat

25 Online auction site

26 Apiece

27 Painter Joan

28 Caesar salad morsels

32 Start eating

33 Breakfast order

35 Actress Aniston, to friends

36 Airport screening org.

38 "— Park"

39 Finished

42 Farm fraction

43 Quaker pronoun

44 Frost

45 Highland hat

46 Coloration

48 Peanut product

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Frankie Muniz, 34; Margaret Cho, 51; John Rzeznik, 54; Little Richard, 87.

Happy Birthday: Think twice about the things you've done in the past, what you are doing at the moment and where you see yourself headed in the future. Look at the transition you want to make and the dedication and hard work it will take. You'll find a way to reach your goal. Be realistic and moderate, and keep your plans simple and doable. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 26, 37, 44, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen and learn. Observation will help you detect what and who is best for you. Don't waste time on negative people or projects that aren't going to help you reach your goal. Keep your life simple and your focus on what's doable. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A positive change can be made. Revise what isn't working for you anymore into something that excites you. Expand your mind, friendships and interests. A romantic suggestion will perk your interest and lead to physical improvement. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful how you distribute your time. Helping others can be rewarding, but not if someone takes advantage of you. Pick those you associate with carefully. Partnerships need to be well-balanced. Equality, trust and truth matter. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Focus on what you can do, not what you cannot. Refuse to let an emotional incident throw you off your game. Push to finish what you start,

and surround yourself with people who make you feel good about your accomplishments. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Information that helps you make a decision regarding your direction will be offered. Educate yourself, and spend time with people who have traveled the path you plan to pursue. Refuse to get trapped in someone else's dream. Do your own thing. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional spending is not the answer. Focus on personal achievement and spending time with someone you love. Positive change begins with you. Take a step in a direction that helps you put an end to what is no longer working for you. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An inquisitive mind will help you gather information and push you to change situations you don't like. Assess your lifestyle and your day-to-day routine. Happiness begins within, and it's up to you to make adjustments to suit your needs. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You are primed for success. Don't waffle; embrace different and exciting changes. Live your dream instead of just thinking about the life you want. Personal and professional gains are within reach if you stretch and grow. Romance is featured. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your allies close and your enemies closer. Knowing what everyone around you is up to will help you ward off meddling and someone misleading you. Use your intuition as well as your intelligence when making decisions. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you want something done, do it yourself. Change happens when you take action. Talk is cheap, and making promises is fruitless if you don't follow through. Use your intelligence, and you will influence others. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Finish whatever task you've been given. Leaving a job unfinished will hurt your reputation. A disagreement is likely if you get into a discussion about politics or religion. Pay more attention to doing and being your best. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to detail, and you'll avoid a dispute with someone critical. Focus on building your financial reserve, not spending or giving away your hard-earned cash. Personal improvement, romance and doing something that matters should be your priorities. ***

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, resourceful and proactive. You are intense and ambitious.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			3	2		7	4				
7						3					
3	6				4						
		1		8					3		
8									2		
4				6		5					
			1				6	8			
		8								5	
	2	5		9	7						

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/05 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	8	2	3	1	6	5	7	9
9	5	1	2	7	4	6	8	3
3	7	6	9	8	5	4	1	2
8	1	4	5	6	3	9	2	7
5	9	3	7	4	2	8	6	1
2	6	7	1	9	8	3	4	5
6	2	5	4	3	7	1	9	8
1	3	8	6	2	9	7	5	4
7	4	9	8	5	1	2	3	6

Difficulty Level ***** 1/14

STUMPED?

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Yanks set up meetings with Cole, Strasburg



**N E W
YORK**—The

New York Yankees know their starting pitching held them back last season. To remedy that, the team will meet with the top two pitchers on the free-agent market.

The Yankees will sit down with both Gerrit Cole and Stephen Strasburg over the next couple days, according to reports. Both players are represented by Scott Boras.

It's believed that the Yankees will be more aggressive for the 29-year-old Cole, who they've coveted for years. While New York will make a play for Strasburg, many believe he'll return to the Washington Nationals, according to Rosenthal.

The Yankees' interest in both players shouldn't come as a surprise. The Yankees won 103 games last season on the strength of their offense and bullpen. The team's 117 wRC+—an advanced metric that measures a team's offensive production—ranked second last season. Their 4.08 bullpen ERA ranked ninth.

The team's rotation was middle of the pack. The Yankees' 4.51 rotation ERA ranked 15th. James Paxton and Masahiro Tanaka impressed at times, but neither player eclipsed 180 innings. To make matters worse, the team's ace, Luis Severino, was limited to just 12 innings due to injury.

While a healthy Severino should make things better in 2020, the Yankees could still use help at the top of their rotation. Cole or Strasburg would help immensely. In 212 1/3 innings, Cole posted a 2.50 ERA, with 326 strikeouts, last season. Strasburg, 31, had a 3.32 ERA and 251 strikeouts over 209 innings.

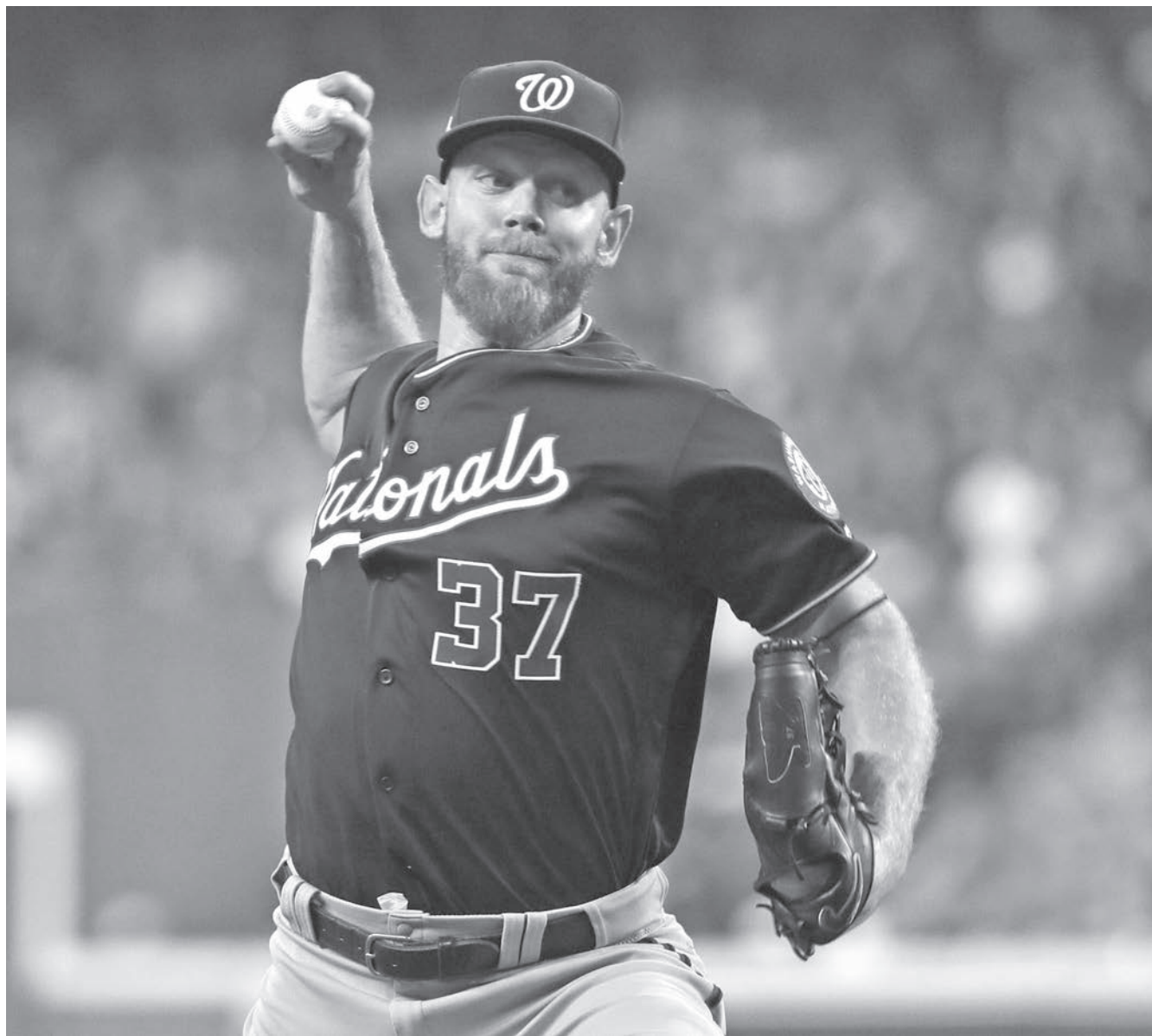
While the Yankees have thrown money around in the past, the team has been surprisingly frugal with free agents the past few winters. The team's interest in Cole and Strasburg indicates that could change this offseason.

The reason for that change in approach is obvious. Landing either Cole or Strasburg wouldn't just address the Yankees' biggest need, it would make them the early favorite in the American League.

Marlins seek further upgrade for offense

In Miami, the Marlins will seek to add further pop to their lineup this offseason after acquiring slugging first baseman Jesus Aguilar and the versatile Jonathan Villar, who will be used primarily at third base and in the outfield.

"We improved our offense, but we had a long way to go," president of baseball operations



Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws against the Houston Astros during the first inning of Game 2 of the World Series Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019, in Houston.

ously Monday night when the team decided to part ways with center fielder Kevin Pillar.

The veteran tied for the team lead in homers with 21, made highlight-reel plays on defense and was one of the only players who hit with success at Oracle Park. One day later, San Francisco's front office reportedly is interested in a much more powerful bat in the outfield.

The Giants are showing interest in free-agent outfielder Nicholas Castellanos. The 27-year-old could be the perfect fit for the Giants, too.

Castellanos was an absolute star for the Cubs last season after Chicago acquired him from the Tigers at the July 31 MLB trade deadline. In 51 games with the Cubs, Castellanos hit .321 with 16 homers, 21 doubles and a 1.002 OPS.

And Giants general manager Scott Harris had a front-row view of Castellanos becoming a pitcher's worst nightmare. Harris was the Cubs' assistant general manager last season, and certainly had a helping hand in bringing the slugger to the Windy City.

President of baseball operations Farhan Zaidi said he wants to add power to the Giants' lackluster offense, and that's exactly what Castellanos would do. Between Detroit and Chicago, the veteran hit 27 homers last season, his third straight year with at least 20 long balls.

Adding a right-handed power bat would be a welcome move, too, especially to Oracle Park. The Giants could place Castellanos at one of the corner outfield positions, with left-handers Mike Yastrzemski and Alex Dickerson occupying the other two open spots. Austin Slater could serve as a utility man and another right-handed bat, while lefty Steven Duggar would be a great defensive replacement with speed off the bench.

Castellanos also played the majority of his time in the field at third base to start his career, and has expressed a willingness to play first base when needed as well.

The Giants ranked 26th in all of baseball last season with only 167 homers as a team. They also were ranked 28th in slugging percentage (.392) and runs scored (678). Castellanos would be an instant upgrade offensively, and likely wouldn't break the bank.

Manny, Big Papi into Red Sox's Hall of Fame

Manny Ramirez is getting into a baseball Hall of Fame in 2020, just not the one he expected. The Boston Red Sox announced Tuesday that they will induct Ramirez into their team Hall of Fame next season.

Ramirez is one of five men, including former designated hitter David Ortiz, who will receive that honor in 2020. While Ortiz is perhaps the most recognizable name on that list, his induction shouldn't come as a surprise. No player embodied the Red Sox over the past decade or so more than Ortiz.

Ramirez, on the other

hand, is a more controversial selection. His on-field accolades can't be debated. In eight seasons with Boston, Ramirez hit .312/.411/.588, with 274 home runs. He made the All-Star team every season he was in Boston, and played a big role in the team winning the World Series in 2004 and 2007.

Ramirez's career took a turn for the worse after leaving Boston. In 2009, Ramirez received a 50-game suspension after he tested positive for using a women's fertility drug. That drug was linked to steroid use. Ramirez received another

suspension for violating Major League Baseball's drug policy in 2011. He was suspended 100 games, and chose to retire from baseball. Ramirez attempted to come back after the 2011 season, but never reached the majors again.

While the Red Sox are willing to overlook Ramirez's violations, the National Baseball Hall of Fame feels differently. Ramirez has failed to receive a ton of support in the three years he's been on the ballot. Ramirez received 23.8 percent of the vote in 2017, his first year on the ballot. He hasn't topped that figure the

past two years.

It will be a few years until Ortiz is eligible for induction, though he's expected to perform much better. There's even a chance Ortiz will make it into the Hall on the first ballot.

Given the difference in how each player is viewed, it will be interesting to see how Ramirez reacts to the honor. Unless the National Baseball Hall of Fame voters experience a drastic change of opinion on Ramirez, the Red Sox Hall of Fame might be as good as it gets for the slugger.

Michael Hill said Tuesday. "So we're still exploring opportunities to improve our offense."

The Marlins acquired Villar on Monday from the Baltimore Orioles for minor league left-hander Easton Lucas and claimed Aguilar off waivers after he was designated for assignment last week by the Tampa Bay Rays.

Adding bats was the primary goal at the start of the offseason after the Marlins finished last in the National League in runs and homers.

They also are shopping for bullpen help, including a closer. Starting pitching isn't a priority because young arms are the organization's strength.

"We believe in the starting pitching depth we currently have," Hill said. "We think this is championship-elite starting pitching. We're definitely happy with the quality and quantity."

Versatility should be a strong suit of the everyday lineup. Villar joins a roster that includes Brian Anderson, Garrett Cooper and Jon Berti, all of whom can play both the infield and outfield.

Villar has played 54 games at third and 13 in the outfield. He's also an option at short-stop (385 games) and second base (333).

"He's incredibly versatile and athletic," Hill said.

Villar batted .274 with 33 doubles, 24 home runs, 73 RBIs and 40 stolen bases in 162 games for Baltimore in 2019.

Aguilar was an All-Star for Milwaukee in 2018, when he had 35 home runs. This year he had 12 homers and 50 RBIs for the Brewers and Rays.

In another move Monday, the Marlins designated hard-throwing reliever Tayron Guerrero for assignment. He gave up 36 walks in 46 innings this year and had an ERA of 6.26.

"For a number of our young relievers, they need to get better and throw more strikes," Hill said. "As we win more games and compete for cham-

pionships, guys are going to have to command the strike zone. Guys given an opportunity have to take advantage. If they aren't able to take advantage of that opportunity, we'll find someone who is."

The Marlins look to be more competitive next year after going 57-105 in 2019, their 10th consecutive losing season.

"Monday was just the first step in making additions to this club and putting ourselves in position to have a successful 2020 season," Hill said.

Giants interested in Castellanos

Giants fans were scratching their heads and typing furi-

Spurs rally for 2OT win after Harden's dunk waved



SAN ANTONIO — James Harden had a slam dunk waved off by officials, the first sign that it might not be the Houston Rockets' night.

Lonnie Walker IV helped make sure of that.

Walker had a career-high 28 points and the San Antonio Spurs overcame Harden's 50 points by rallying from a late 10-point deficit to beat Houston 135-133 in double overtime Tuesday.

Harden played a season-high 49 minutes coming off a 60-point outing Saturday over three quarters against Atlanta, but he was whistled for two charges in the second overtime. The second came against DeMar DeRozan with 0.8 seconds remaining, sealing San Antonio's victory.

That followed a bizarre moment in the fourth quarter, when officials erased Harden's dunk with 7:53 remaining and Houston leading 102-89. Officials ruled the ball didn't clear the cylinder, but crew chief James Capers said after the game that, "in fact it did clear the net and should have been a successful field goal."

Capers said the Rockets did not ask for a review within the 30-second window that coaches can challenge calls, during which time they were arguing and asking for clarification. The botched call crushed Houston's momentum.

"We just stopped playing and they gained confidence," Harden said.

The Rockets led by 22 in the second half and were up by double digits in the fourth quarter for all but the final 4:18.

Walker, a second-year guard who has been patiently waiting on the bench most of his career, took over in his first extended playing time to fuel the comeback.

"It was confidence," Walker said. "My teammates kept me going, and once I started feeling it, I'm just going to let it go and play my game. I know what I can and cannot do. I'm just happy that we played team ball and we got this win."

DeRozan added 23 points, nine assists and five rebounds as the Spurs won their second straight at home and snapped the Rockets' two-game winning streak.

"They played faster but more sense of urgency than we did, especially being up," Houston point guard Russell Westbrook said.

Harden had six points in the second overtime, including a follow of Clint Capela's missed free throw with 1:41 remaining to put Houston up 131-128. Bryn Forbes tied it at 131 with a 3-pointer, and the



teams traded free throws the remainder of the game.

In addition to drawing the late charge on Harden, DeRozan was also 3 for 4 on free throws in the final 30 seconds.

"That's who he is, he's the leader of the team," Walker said. "We expect him to score in crunch time and make big plays and that's exactly what he did. He got us this win."

Capela had 22 points and 21 rebounds, and Austin Rivers and Westbrook added 19 points apiece for Houston. Westbrook was 7-of-30 shooting but added 10 assists and 10 rebounds.

Heat 121, Raptors 110 OT

In Toronto, Jimmy Butler had 22 points, 13 rebounds and 12 assists, Duncan Robinson scored 22 points and the Miami Heat spoiled Kyle Lowry's return to the Raptors' lineup.

Butler scored eight consecutive points in 55 seconds to begin the extra session as the Heat recovered after blowing a seven-point lead in the final two minutes of the fourth quarter.

Bam Adebayo scored 18 points, Justise Winslow had 17 and Kelly Olynyk 16 as the Heat snapped the Raptors' season-high winning streak at seven games, and became the first visitor to win north of the border this season.

Pascal Siakam had 15 points and 12 rebounds, Norman Powell scored 23 points and Fred VanVleet had 19 for Toronto, which had won a franchise-record nine straight home games to begin the season.

The Raptors missed all nine

of their field goal attempts in overtime.

Lakers 105, Nuggets 96

In Denver, LeBron James had 25 points, nine assists and a crucial dunk off a miss late in the fourth quarter to lead Los Angeles over Denver.

Anthony Davis shook off flu-like symptoms to score 25 points and add 10 rebounds for the Lakers.

Both teams were coming off losses that ended long winning streaks, but it was Los Angeles that bounced back behind James and Davis.

Davis missed the morning film session and his status for the game was questionable until before tip. He showed no effects of illness, scoring 13 points in the third while shoot-

ing 5 of 7 in the period.

Clippers 117, Trail Blazers 97

In Los Angeles, Montrezl Harrell scored 26 points, Paul George added 25 and Los Angeles pulled away in the second half to beat Portland.

Kawhi Leonard added 11 points in helping extend the Clippers' franchise-best start at home to 13-1.

The game was tied 10 times in the first half before the Clippers eked out a 62-59 lead at halftime.

George and Leonard took over to start the third. They each hit 3-pointers and George had a steal and a dunk to go with a free throw from Leonard as part of a 14-3 run that gave the Clippers a 76-62 lead.

Mavericks 118, Pelicans 97

In New Orleans, Luka Doncic scored 15 of his 33 points in the third quarter and grabbed 18 rebounds in just 28 minutes to power Dallas over the Pelicans.

Doncic shot 9 of 18 from the field, making five 3-pointers, and hit 10 of 13 free throws to lead the Mavericks to their eighth victory in the last nine games.

Doncic had 12 points the first quarter and then broke open a three-point game by scoring 15 of the Mavericks' 25 points in the final 9:18 of the third, when Dallas built a 84-75 lead. Two of Doncic's jumpers came from at least 25 feet with no defender in his face.

Dallas led by as many as 18 points in the fourth quarter and coasted home.

San Antonio Spurs guard Lonnie Walker IV (1) is fouled by Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) during the second half of an NBA game in San Antonio, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2019. San Antonio won in double overtime, 135-133.

Magic 127, Wizards 120

In Washington, Evan Fournier scored 31 points, D.J. Augustin added 16 of his 24 in the fourth quarter and Orlando beat the Wizards.

Bradley Beal scored 42 points for the Wizards, who have lost five of six.

Markelle Fultz added a career-high 20 points for the Magic, who have won three of four after earning just their second road victory of the season.

Davis Bertans added 21 points and Isaiah Thomas scored 20 for Washington. The Wizards were without starting center Thomas Bryant, who was diagnosed with a stress reaction in his right foot Tuesday and will be re-evaluated in three weeks.

Pistons 127, Cavaliers 94

In Cleveland, Blake Griffin scored 24 points, Andre Drummond had 17 points and 14 rebounds, and Detroit routed Cleveland to win consecutive games for the first time this season.

Griffin played just 24 minutes and was 8 of 13 from the field, including 6 of 7 from deep. Drummond played 31 minutes as Detroit's starters were on the bench for the fourth quarter.

Griffin scored 16 points in the first quarter with four 3-pointers. Detroit hit 10 3-pointers in the first half and built a 57-38 lead, a margin that steadily grew throughout the game and reached 35 in the fourth quarter.

Masters field starting to rise with new winners

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Seven tournaments from the six largest tours over the next three weeks could shape the field for the Masters, and perhaps pave the way for the largest gathering at Augusta National in more than 50 years.

Augusta National invites the top 50 from the final world ranking of the year, and then the top 50 one week before the Masters.

Among those on the bubble are former PGA champion Keegan Bradley, hanging on at No. 48, and Presidents Cup player Cameron Smith at No. 52. The Australian gets two more tries to get into the top 50.

The Masters already has 77 players who have qualified and are expected to play. From this week's world ranking, 12 players in the top 50 are not yet eligible, meaning the size of the field could swell to 89 players going into the new year. Still to come are 12 events on the PGA Tour that offer Masters invitations to the winner, along with the top 50 from the April 5 world ranking and the Latin American Amateur champion.

Tiger Woods won against a field of 87 players this year for his fifth green jacket.

The Masters is all about

providing the best experience for the players, one reason it has the smallest field of the four majors. It has not had more than 100 players since 1966.

Why the increase?

Some of it has to do with the increased fall schedule on the PGA Tour.

A year ago, seven tournaments offered full FedEx Cup points, three of them limited fields in Asia. Only two of those seven winners were outside the top 50 in the world—Kevin Tway at the Safeway Open and Charles Howell III at the RSM Classic.

This year, the PGA Tour had 10 tournaments in the fall that offered a Masters invitation. Six of the winners were outside the top 50. Five of them were not among the Top 150 in the world.

The tour had two new tournaments in the summer (between the last two majors), won by Nate Lashley in Detroit and Matthew Wolff in Minnesota. With one fewer event in the FedEx Cup postseason, 11 players who reached the Tour Championship—which comes with a Masters invitation—did not win. Five of them would have made the Masters field through other categories.



Surging Ravens unanimous top team in poll



NEW YORK (AP)—Lamar Jackson and the surging Baltimore Ravens passed their latest test.

The Ravens beat the San Francisco 49ers 20-17 Sunday on Justin Tucker's field goal as time expired for their eighth consecutive victory.

The Ravens, one of five teams with a 10-2 record, are the unanimous choice as the top team in the latest AP Pro32 poll.

The Ravens earned all 12 first-place votes for 384 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

"In a potential Super Bowl preview, the Ravens won a slugfest over the 49ers, showing they're equally adept at grinding it out against elite teams as they are at dominating weaker opponents," said Newsday's Bob Glauber.

Despite the loss, the 49ers remained third in the poll.

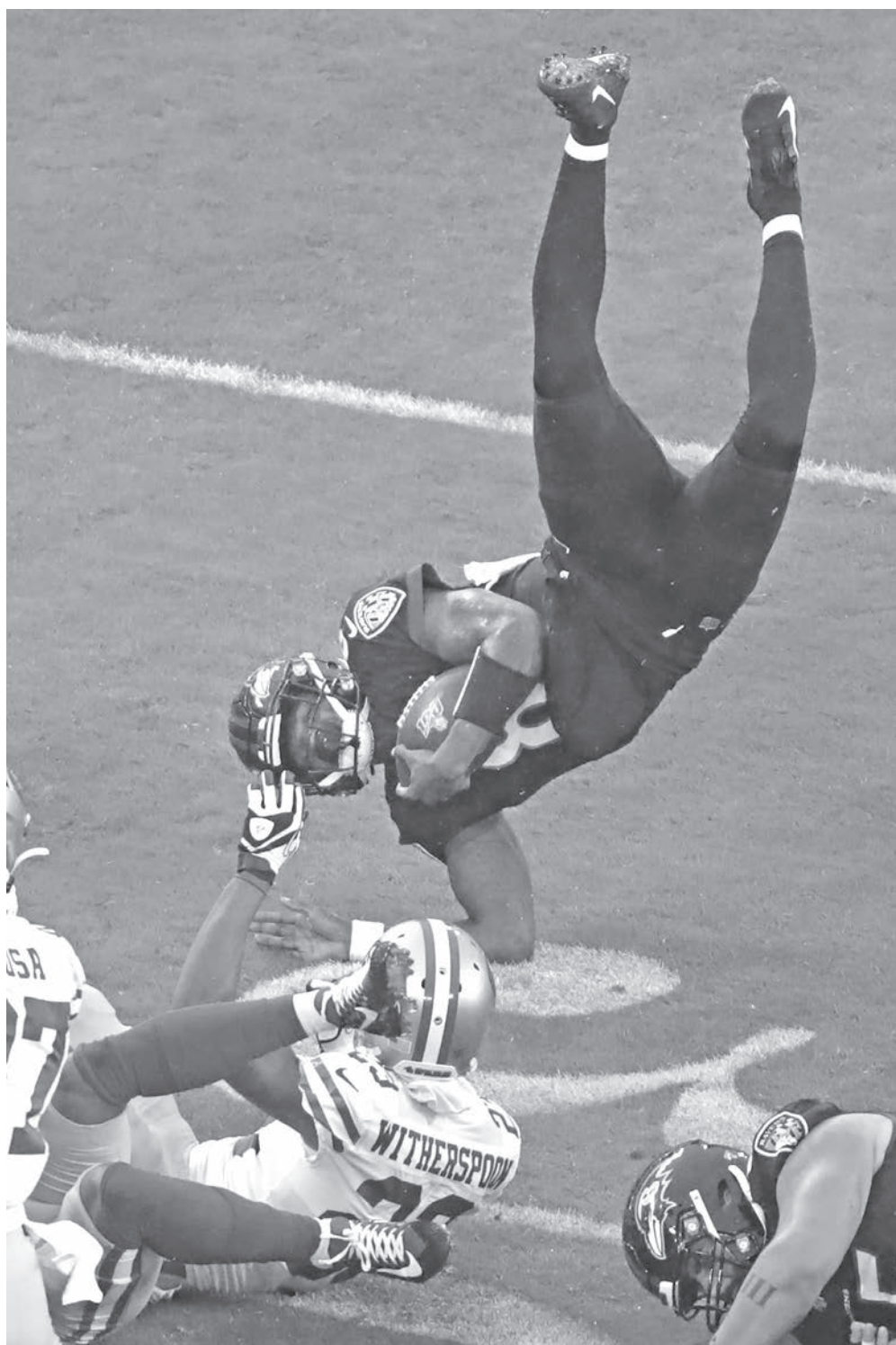
"Even in defeat, the 49ers showed every indication they are capable of representing the NFC in the Super Bowl," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida.

The Seattle Seahawks climbed two spots to No. 2 after a 37-30 win on Monday night over the Minnesota Vikings, who dropped four spots to No. 10.

The New Orleans Saints remained at No. 4 after topping the Atlanta Falcons 26-18 on Thanksgiving and will host the 49ers on Sunday in one of the top matchups of Week 14.

"Just believe their defense is a tad better than the Saints," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said of the 49ers.

Tom Brady and the New



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson (8) flips after being tripped by San Francisco 49ers cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon (23) in the first half of an NFL game, Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019, in Baltimore, Md.

ball Talk said of the defending Super Bowl champs.

The Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs, both coming off dominant wins, are tied at No. 6.

The Buffalo Bills remained at No. 9 after topping the Dallas Cowboys on Thanksgiving and get to face another first-place team as they host the Ravens on Sunday.

Vikings still on track for playoffs

In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Vikings remain on a clear track for the playoffs, closer in perception to the four teams ahead of them in the NFC than the pack behind.

After their setback in Seattle on Monday night, though, there's a persistent question about whether they can produce a complete, winning performance on the road against the league's elite.

That's the scenario the Vikings (8-4) will probably find themselves in the postseason next month, if they avoid a late collapse. The biggest concern, believe it or not, might be whether the defense is still capable of delivering.

Though the offense had two turnovers the Seahawks turned into 10 points toward the 37-30 victory and the defense pitched in a touchdown of its own, the Vikings allowed the most points against them in

24 games. Only five times in six seasons under coach Mike Zimmer have they given up a higher score.

"I think we have a football team that can go on the road in a tough environment and get a win," quarterback Kirk Cousins said. "I think this was an opportunity that we missed, and that's disappointing. I think tonight we were able to at least show resilience, and we're going to need that."

The Vikings rank third in the NFL with a 68.3% touchdown rate on possessions that advance past the 20-yard line, converting on both such drives at Seattle. Last year, they were just 21st in the league with a 54% touchdown rate.

Though the season-long performance against the pass has been a greater concern, the Vikings were vulnerable on the ground far too many times as Seattle gained 218 yards, a season most against them. The average of 5.1 yards per rush allowed was their third-highest total this year, with the Seahawks frequently using a third tackle for more blocking power.

"I thought they would be throwing the ball a little bit more than they did," coach Mike Zimmer said.

Defensive end Ifeadi Odenigbo. After spending most of the past two seasons on the practice squad, the 2017 seventh-round draft pick has worked his way into the rotation and is third on the team with four sacks. He took down Russell Wilson for a 13-yard loss on second down late in the fourth quarter, leading to a Seahawks punt that gave the Vikings the ball for their last-chance drive.

England Patriots dropped three places to No. 5 after their 28-22 loss Sunday night at AFC

South-leading Houston, which jumped two places to No. 8.

"Anyone who says the Pa-

triotis are done doesn't know anything about anything," Charean Williams of Pro Foot-

Reeling Panthers fire head coach

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—The Ron Rivera era has come to an abrupt end in Carolina.

The Panthers fired their all-time winningest head coach with the team on a four-game losing streak and headed to its third non-playoff season in four years.

"I believe this is the best decision for the long-term success of our team," Panthers owner David Pepper said in a statement Tuesday. "I have a great deal of respect for Ron and the contributions he has made to this franchise and to this community."

Secondary coach Perry Fewell was named interim head coach.

Offensive coordinator Norv Turner will transition to special assistant to the head coach, and quarterbacks coach Scott Turner will serve as offensive coordinator.

Pepper said he will begin a search for a new coach immediately.

Rivera was hired in 2011 and was 76-63-1 in the regular season and a 3-4 postseason mark. In nine seasons Rivera guided the team to a Super Bowl appearance, an NFC championship and three NFC South titles.

But the Panthers have fallen on hard times lately following injuries to quarterback Cam Newton the past two seasons.

The Panthers are 5-7 this season and are all but eliminated from playoff contention after a 29-21 loss to the Washington Redskins on Sunday at home.

When asked if he was worried about his future with the team on Sunday after his team surrendered a 14-0 lead to the Redskins, Rivera replied, "I'm not worried about my future. I'm worried about

this football team. We have a game coming up on Sunday" at Atlanta.

They started this season 5-3. Last year the team was 6-2 but lost seven straight games and finished 7-9.

Since losing to the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50 four seasons ago, the Panthers are 29-31 and have not won a playoff game.

Rivera, 57, did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment from The Associated Press.

Rivera's firing might not be the only change coming.

Pepper, who bought the team in 2018, said long-term mediocrity is not an option for the Panthers.

"We are going to take a comprehensive and thorough review of our football operation to make sure we are structured for long-term sustained

success," Pepper said. "Our vision is to find the right mix of old-school discipline and toughness with modern and innovative processes. We will consider a wide range of football executives to complement our current football staff."

Pepper said the team will hire an assistant general manager and vice president of football operations.

"We all must recognize that this is the first step in a process, but we are committed to building and maintaining a championship culture for our team and our fans," Pepper said.

Rivera was extremely well liked in the Panthers locker room, and he easily related to players having played nine seasons in the NFL for the Chicago Bears, winning a Super Bowl with Jim McMahon, Walter Payton and others in 1985.

Rivera is a two-time NFL Coach of the Year and likely won't have a problem landing a job next season.

As for what the move means for Newton remains to be seen given that Pepper has shown he is not afraid to make big changes.

The legacies of Rivera and Newton have always been intertwined as both came to the Panthers in 2011. Newton is coming off shoulder and foot injuries and the team could save \$19 million under the salary cap if they release or trade him after the season.

Kyle Allen has filled in for Newton this season at quarterback and is 5-5 as a starter.

Gronkowski comeback ruled out

Any possibility of Rob Gronkowski coming out of retirement to aid the New England Patriots' postseason push officially came to an end last weekend, according to NFL rules.

Gronkowski, who retired prior to the 2019 season, had until that day at 4 p.m. ET to apply for reinstatement from

the NFL's reserve/retired list. League rules allow for players to return to action so long as they re-apply before Week 13.

With the deadline expired, Gronkowski would not be able to return to the field until the 2020 season at the earliest. A nine-year NFL veteran, Gronkowski earned more than \$53 million in salary during his time with the Patriots.

Gronkowski, 30, repeatedly said he had no plans to attempt a comeback in 2019. However, Patriots owner Robert Kraft told Gronkowski last March that he wanted him back with the team ahead of the playoffs.

At present, Gronkowski is working as a studio analyst for FOX Sports' NFL programming. He is also a celebrity endorser for Abacus Health's CBDMedic Brand.

In order to return to the NFL at any point, Gronkowski would have to cut ties with the CBD brand.

Islander Rent A Car zooms past AK Toyota

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Islander Rent A Car demolished AK Toyota Wheels, 96-57, in their Open Division match in the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



day at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Islander went straight for the kill early, hammering its opponent right in the first quarter, as it scored 25 points against AK Toyota's 6. Mac Mintac led the way for Islander in the opening canto, as he logged 8



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

United Filipino Organization officials present the Best Player of the Game award to Islander Rent A Car's Mac Mintac, third left, after their match against AK Toyota Wheels in the Open Division of the United Filipino Organization IT&E 2019 Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Djokovic preps for Australian Open title defense



A U S T R A - L I A—World No. 2 Novak Djokovic will

play in the inaugural Adelaide International tennis competition in January ahead of his Australian Open title defense, tournament organizers said on Wednesday.

Djokovic will start his competitive preparation for the new season at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi from Dec. 19-21, before representing Serbia in the inaugural ATP Cup in Australia in early January.

The 32-year-old Serb, who beat Rafa Nadal to claim a record seventh Australian Open title earlier this year, will then arrive in Adelaide for the combined WTA and ATP tournament from Jan. 12-18.

The women's field will feature American seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams, alongside world number one Ash Barty, Si-

mona Halep, Petra Kvitova and Kiki Bertens.

"Novak and Venus are amongst the all-time greats of our sport and we can't wait to see them right here in Adelaide," tournament director Alistair MacDonald said in a statement.

The Australian Open, the year's first grand slam, will be held at Melbourne Park from Jan. 20-Feb 2.

Meanwhile, Spanish tennis player Carla Suarez Navarro said on Tuesday that she will retire from the sport at the end of the 2020 season to focus on "other priorities."

The 31-year-old has slipped to 55th in the WTA rankings, down from a career-high of sixth in 2016.

"I am beginning to have other priorities and tennis is a very demanding sport that requires a lot of sacrifice," said Suarez Navarro, who has won \$11.58 million in career prize money.

points. He also got a lot of help from his teammates with Elgene Mangali contributing 5 points, John Patrana and Joseph Torres adding 4 points each, and Jetzen Jandoc and John Aticapua chipping in 2 apiece.

AK Toyota fell behind ear-

ly, as it had only three players making it to the board in the first quarter and none of them drilled more than one basket in a lackluster showing in the opening canto.

AK Toyota picked up its scoring a bit in the second and

third periods, but still, it was no match to the gunners of Islander. After three periods, Islander's lead ballooned to 47, 68-21.

With the huge lead, Islander slowed down a bit in the final canto, giving AK Toyota the

opportunity to pile up points and have a better finish after a slump in the first period.

Still, Islander earned a big 39-point winning margin in its debut after running a balanced offense. Mintac led six Islander players with double figures after scoring 18. Pastrana, Mangali, and Torres added 14 apiece, while Ken Viray and Jandoc recorded 13 and 10, respectively.

Austin Camacho was the only player to post twin digits in scoring for AK Toyota after firing 22 points.

Islander 96—Mintac 18, Pastrana 14, Mangali 14, Torres 14, Viray 13, Jandoc 10, Aticapua 4, Santos 3, Barrios 3, Quan 2.

AK Toyota 57—Camacho 22, Coldeen 9, Jones 8, Joyner 6, Ferrer 4, Sekool 3, Guilas 2, Boswell 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-6, 42-15, 68-21, 96-57.

'HELL'

From Page 28

races, while he was the champion of the 2010 China Cup and ranked in the Top 10 in the 2010 Asian Games.

Woh, on the other hand, raced in the 2018 Completed Cape Epic, 2014 National Championship Hong Kong-ITT & Road Race, 2013 and 2014 Hong Kong National

Mountain Bike Championships, and 2010 Tour of Thailand Princess Mamackakri Sirindhon's Cup. He also saw action in the 2009 Tour De Kumano Jelajah in Malaysia, 2008 Tour of South China Sea, 2008 Tour of Hong Kong Shanghai, 2007 Tour de Korea, 2007 Tour of Hong Kong Shanghai, and the 2006 and 2007 United States Super Week Pro Tour.

KANOA

From Page 28

Kanoa's upset, as he scored four goals in the first meeting and he will surely be a marked man when they collide anew with Island Star, as the stakes will be higher this time—the division championship. Ian Maniango and Markus Toves hit the two other goals in Kanoa's win. Zhi Peng Lin, Xiao Feng Lin, Ri Cheng Xian, and Kai-Jiun Ma scored for Island Star.

With its victory in their first

meeting, Kanoa will go to tonight's highly anticipated game with a slight edge. In case the second duel ends in a draw, M-League officials will have to decide how to break the standoff. If it is via head-to-head, Kanoa would have the edge, owing to its Nov. 17 win. If by goal difference, Kanoa may still have the upper hand, as it currently leads Island Star, 11-6. In five games, Kanoa scored 33 goals and gave up 22, while Island Star collected 25 and yielded 19.



The Pacific Games Council and the Organization of Sports Federations of Oceania met in Australia last month for the PGC's Sports Program Review.

A once in every four years exercise following the Pacific Games, which were hosted by Samoa in July, the Sports Program Review is where the entire sports program is evaluated leading into the next Pacific Games—to be held in the Solomon Islands in 2023—and the upcoming bid process for the 2027 Pacific Games.

The PGC Sports Committee met at the Oceania Athletics Association headquarters in Gold Coast from Nov. 6 to 7. OSFO executive members who participated in the Sports Commit-



SAMOA PACIFIC GAMES PHOTO

A Papua New Guinea athlete does the 100m hurdles of the heptathlon event in the 2019 Pacific Games held in Samoa last summer.

tee's deliberations were Yvonne Mullins (athletics), Ryan Pini (athletes' representative) and Milton Bradley (Shooting). In addition to their participation in the meeting, approximately 20 Oceania federations wrote submissions for the Sports Committee to consider.

Final recommendations from the Sports Committee will be considered by the PGC General Assembly in 2020.

The Pacific Games Council thanked OSFO and its members for its enduring partnership and support to develop sports in the Pacific. **(PR)**

BLAKE

From Page 28

regular season of the six-team tournament and the former Kagman High School standout was ranked No. 4 among the scoring leaders on his team. The 6'2" player collected 62 points in 10 games for fourth place on the Tritons' scoring leaders behind Michael Quan (287), Logan Hopkins (238),

and Jerod Boles (132).

The UOG Tritons wrapped up the regular season with a 4-6 record for a tie for third place with the Four Stars, which eventually took the No. 3 seed by virtue of its advantage over the former in the head-to-head record. KFC Bombers ruled the regular season with a 10-0 record, while Team Gatorade was ranked second after earning

an 8-2 mark.

Blake and the Tritons will return to action this Sunday at the UOG Calvo Field House, as they start their playoff bid in the league that features both collegiate and commercial teams in Guam. The Tritons will take on No. 5 seed Team Wu-Tang in the single-elimination playoffs with the winner advancing to the semis against the KFC Bombers. Four Stars

and FSAG All-Stars (1-9) will collide in the other playoff match this Sunday for the right to face Team Gatorade in the semis next week.

Besides the Triton Men's Basketball League, the Brent Tipton-coached UOG men's cage team also plays in the Guam Basketball Association League, March Madness, and Guam Men's College Basketball League.

M-LEAGUE STANDINGS

(As of Dec. 3, 2019)

Division B							
TEAMS	W	D	L	PTS	GA	GA	GD
Kanoa	5	0	2	15	33	22	11
Island Star	5	0	2	15	25	19	6
Matansa	5	0	3	15	24	23	1
Shirley's	4	0	4	12	28	23	5
WNT	0	0	8	0	15	9	-24



Yanks set up meetings with Cole, Strasburg

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kanoa, Island Star dispute title

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REPORTER

The competition in Division B of the 2019 Fall Men's M-League will have its climactic end, as the season championship will be at stake when Kanoa Football Club and Island Star collide tonight at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa and Island Star hold similar 5-0-2 win-draw-loss records going into the last game in the division, making the duel a make-or-break situation for both squads. The two teams are in a



must-win zone after faltering in their penultimate match. Kanoa bowed to Matansa Football Club last Nov. 24, 3-1, while Shirley's Football Club stunned Island Star, 4-1, on the same day.

The loss versus Shirley's was the second in a row for Island Star, which enjoyed a long stay atop the team standings in Division B after sweeping its first five games before going on a slide.

One of the those two defeats was, incidentally, at the hands of Kanoa, which ended Island Star's streak after a 7-4 victory in their Nov. 17 encounter. Kanoa set the tone in the match early, taking a commanding 6-1 victory and poised to hand Island Star its first loss. However, tension ensued with players from both squads exchanging unpleasant words and extra motion.

Andruw Omelau led

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa Football Club's Ian Maniago dribbles during their first meeting against Island Star in Division B of the 2019 Fall Men's M-League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hei Nok Wong, left, competes in one of the road races in Hong Kong.

18-year-old pro to race in 'Hell'

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Eighteen-year-old Hei Nok Wong of Hong Kong is among the pro riders to watch in the 2019 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race this Saturday.

Wong, who started joining pro races when he was just 16 years old, is a member of the Supernova Cycling Team and trying out for the Hong Kong National Cycling Team. Since becoming part of the Future Star Program in 2017, he has earned impressive results from various tournaments.

This year, Wong participated in the Hong Kong Cycling Criterium Race Series 1 where he placed second in the junior division and the Hong Kong Road Race Series 5 where he finished first in the same division. He also



joined the Hong Kong Road Cycling Championship and was ranked second. In 2018, he placed first in both junior divisions of the Hong Kong Road Race Series 1 and the Hong Kong Junior Road Race Series 3.

Meanwhile, two other Hong Kong pro riders will compete in the 100-kilometer race this weekend—Christopher Chung Woh and Felix Yuen Chi Ho of Hong Kong. Ho is a "Hell" returnee, as he placed No. 15 overall in the 2017 race. He also took part in the World Road Cycling Championship, the Tour of Thailand Stage, Tour of Indonesia Team General Classification, and Tour of Taiwan U23 General Classification in 2011. Ho got runner-up honors in the Thailand and Indonesia

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Blake suits up for UOG Tritons

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UNIVERSITY OF GUAM PHOTO
University of Guam's Dean Blake pulls up for a shot against a Four Stars defender during their game in the Triton Men's Basketball League at the UOG Calvo Field House.



Former CNMI national squad member Dean Blake is now with the University of Guam, suiting up for the Tritons' men's team and playing in the Triton Men's Basketball League.

Blake, who represented the Commonwealth to the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap and in a couple of 3x3 tournaments under the sanction of FIBA Asia, is a member of the Tritons' starting unit.

"My season is going pretty well. I just play my role as the starting center and do what I can for the team. I'm gaining experience from this new level of competition," Blake said.

At the Triton Men's Basketball League, Blake and his squad have just completed the

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